

MONDAY 30 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Cold, with snow in the east

(IR45p) 40p



COMMENT Polly Toynbee looks back at the future PAGE 13



SPORT

Stewart, saviour for England

20 -page section



COMMENT Oasis: after the orgy

PAGE 13

Could this be the face of '97 – or just an 'untried, inexperienced' dummy?

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister's New Year message to Tory constituencies criticising Tony Blair's Shadow Cabinet as "untried, inexperienced" and "too risky" was attacked by Labour last night as the opening shot of a "dirty war" to "get Blair". Conservative Party leaders denied

they were mounting a smear cam-paign against the Labour leader to overhani Labour's massive lead in the polls, but all the signs are that the New Year will see one of the dirtiest battles ever witnessed at a British

Conservatives sources told The Independent that the Prime Minister was against personal attacks on Mr Blair but went on to accuse the Labour leader of "hypocrisy" over abortion, saying he opposed it, after voting to preserve a legal right to

As Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic leader in England and Wales, threatened to make abortion an election issue, a ministerial aide, Dr Robert Spink accused Mr Blair of "breathtaking hypocrisy" on abortion.

Mr Blair is also likely to be accused of hypocrisy over his choice of an "opt-out" school for his son Euan. A Tory source said: "Education is very fruitful territory... We have a new advertising campaign but it is no more negative than the Labour Party's. They showed giants trampling across Britain, and old ladies being strangled. They are just putting the fear of God up people. They cannot claim the high moral ground."

a £7m smear campaign to get Blair,

In his New Year Message, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat eader accused the two parties of competing for office by saying as lit-e of substance as possible - and ritain heading for its least intelliat election ever."

The Big Mac generation

'I think it's time for a change' going into the realms of

First-time voters, who have known only a Conservative-ruled Britain,

sage today will call for an early general election to capitalise on Labour's conviction that the delay in going to the country is paralysing

He will reassure Labour supporters that he will take every opportunity to force an election by bringing down the Government in the Commons. "He will take every opportunity to get them out before time. The drift and weak leadership is damaging Britain and he will set out a positive agenda of new Labour

But Labour is sticking to its strategy of only tabling a "no confidence" motion to bring down the Govern-ment when it thinks it can win the Commons vote. Mr Major enters the New Year without a Commons majority for the first time since Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979, but is still hoping to hold on until an elec-

The Prime Minister's message to constituency chairmen clearly signalled that he intends to use the promise of a tough negotiating stance at the European inter-gov-However, John Prescott, the emmental conference in Amsterdam deputy leader of the Labour Party, to silence criticism from his own told The Independent: "Mr Major's Euro-sceptic Tory MPs, and portray New Year's message is the start of Mr Blair as a soft touch in Europe. "I have one overriding principle

to Brussels. If Britain goes federal, Britain will not follow.

Mr Blair in his own New Year mes- in Amsterdam he would surrender choice."

With Labour we would be

the unknown'

government.

policies," said a Labour source.

tion on 1 May with the help of the Ulster Unionists.



inanced by sleazy foreign companies in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in was part of a "dirty war".

Model leader? A waxen image of Tony Blair's face in production for Madame Tussaud's, London. Living proof of a new look, page 5 best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first. That is the best policy for Britain and our parallel in my policy towards Europe—to put the British interest first.

the veto, and would "just follow the

ty," Mr Major said.

"I will firmly resist any policies that would damage Britain's prosperity or result in a significant shift of power Setting out his vision of "two futures for Britain", which will be a key theme of the Tory campaign, Mr Maritain will not follow."

If Tony Blair represented Britain

jor said: "Stability and prosperity or a leap into the unknown - that is the

central message in the Tories' elec-tion campaign – don't throw it all away – which will be used to counter

are taxes, prices and mortgages, few-er jobs, and a federal Europe.

A Tory leadership source said:

The Prime Minister focused on the sented by a Labour victory, of high-

A Tory leadership source said: Labour's most potent weapon, that it is "time for a change". Hailing the Blair specifically. The Prime Minissuccesses in the economy, Mr Ma-jor highlighted five threats repre-will be campaigning around the is-

terly reject charges of hypocrisy. Tony has a perfectly clear position on abortion, which is not in any way

hypocritical. The issue is whether Parliament Photograph: Andrew Buurman

facing agonisingly difficult personal decisions. "He doesn't believe the criminal law is the right instrument to take away that choice. "His voting record is entirely

consistent with that." Abortion row, page 2 Leading article, page 12

Labour pulls back from union curb

rrie Clement and in Brown

he Labour leadership has quily abandoned plans for a ackdown on unions in the liblic sector. Despite a spate of union-

ashing which dominated the eadlines at the time of the parand TUC conferences, Tony lair has decided that plans for hat were seen as "no strike" eals were impractical.

itiative was comprehensively bished from nearly every arter, including the Labour

QUICKLY

eru hostage talks e Peruvian government and

pac Amaru guerrillas holding

hostages in the Japanese am-

ador's residence appeared

he moving towards an end to

two-week-old crisis. Page 9

urms face sanctions

usands of small and medi-

Other sanctions through

ng to implement provisions

inn the new Pensions Act in

ril, a leading benefit consul-

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n-sized firms could face fines

However, the continuing tensions between the two wings of the labour movement emerged again yesterday when a return "beer and sandwiches" under a Blair government was ruled out by Stephen Byers, a Labour spokesman on employment.

Mr Byers rejected plans being drawn up by John Ed-monds, leader of the GMB general union, disclosed in the The decision follows a brief Independent on Sunday, for the sultation period in which the restoration of tripartite forum between unions, the Govern-

A couple died yesterday after falling into

an icy lake while trying to rescue their

them suffered hypothermia.
The deaths of William and Jill Willis,

both 58, came only two days after the

Royal Society for the Prevention of Ac-

cidents (RoSPA) warned people not to

The tragedy also followed the Boxing

Day death of Tony Rees, 52, who

crashed through a frozen pond in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, trying to

The latest accident happened at Belhus Wood Country Park, Aveley, near

Grays, Essex, where the temperature was

below freezing yesterday. An Essex po-

venture on to frozen water.

save a spaniel.

ment and employers.

leader's own colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet. tablish the sort of machinery message the TUC general sections that is referred to in John Edretary, John Monks, urged the monds's memorandum.

"We have no proposals to es-

"We don't believe by setting up a whole machinery of govemment is the best way forward. It's far better to create the climate in which employers and trade unionists can work together to achieve mutual ob-jectives," Mr Byers said on BBC radio.

Mr Edmonds is proposing the revival of a forum on the lines of the National Economic and Development Council (Neddy), abolished by Baroness

Meanwhile, in his New Year from a position where at best we unrest under a Labour govern-

unions to make "big changes" to offer the fullest contribution to

a future Labour government. He said they would have to break the habit of being in opposition and move to being part of the solution to Britain's problems in the election year. Mr Monks said Britain des-

perately needed a new government, but a Labour victory would only be the beginning of new challenges for unions. "Unions need to make big changes if they are to make the

fullest contribution - moving

Couple die trying to save dog in icy lake

treated as the enemy within will not be easy. Habits of opposition will have to be broken."

And on BBC Radio 5 Live Labour government would not be involved in "back stairs dealings" with the unions, but he added: "There will be a climate in which the government of the

day is not hostile." However, he said the unions would not get "everything they want, it certainly won't be that". The idea of that compulsory binding arbitration might be used to keep the lid on union

have been ignored and at worst ment was floated last September by David Blunkett, the party's chief spokesman on education and employment. Following a furious response

yesterday Mr Monks said a from unions Mr Blunkett subsequently called for the greater use of voluntary arbitration agreements leading to a deal which would be binding on

Unions pointed out that such a policy could lead to a tidal wave of arbitration. Under such a system unions would have little incentive in submitting sensible claims if they felt that an arbitrator might split the difference between the two sides.

"They were a loving couple who had thir-

ty-odd years of marriage together, and at least they are together now. That's the

the couple had owned for about a year,

escaped from the lake by itself and was

being cared for yesterday in kennels.

The middle-aged married couple who tried to help Mr and Mrs Willis were tak-

en to Oldchurch Hospital in Romford

suffering from the effects of the cold.

being found, two children had followed

their pet spaniel on to the ice at Belhus

Park. Their father quickly called them

to safety when informed of the incident.

were in danger on the ice, it looks so

"It never occurred to me that they

Yet within minutes of Mr Willis's body

The black Labrador dog, Tara, which

only comfort we can take from it."



120 million acts of sexual intercourse will happen today.

have the family planning they want to separate their decision to have sex...from getting pregnant. If you have sex and reproductive choice, help us give more women the chance to choose and to safeguard their health.

HEALLHARMA

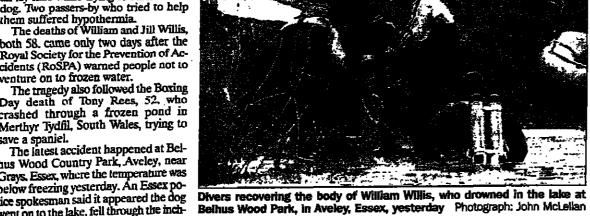
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family planning, sexual and reproductive healthcare worldwide.

<u> A PERSONAL FREEDOM: A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE</u>

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azette 14 thick ice and became trapped. "The man, in attempting to rescue the dog, also fell into the lake. The woman attempted to rescue him and also fell in. Hospital in east London, but died shortfought to save the couple, who came from Upminster, in Essex. ly afterwards.



Mrs Willis, a law firm clerk, was taken from the water after 45 minutes by firefighters. Electric shocks were used to re-start her heart and she was flown by air ambulance to the Royal London

Her husband, a painter and decorator, was trapped in the 12-foot deep lake for more than two hours and was declared dead at the scene after his body was retrieved.

A RoSPA spokesman said that more than half of ice-related drownings involved an attempted rescue of another

thick," he said.

as retrieved. "The chances of anyone surviving They had two sons, Steven, 32, and when immersed in very cold water are Richard, 30. Steven said yesterday: extremely slim."

person or of a dog.

"People should not even test the thickness of the ice with their toes, let alone venture out on to the ice," he said.

preign News 8-10 went on to the lake, fell through the inch-

Nurses 'argued before killing' in Saudi

Michael Streeter

The two British nurses accused of murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia argued with her about her age shortly before she was killed, it was claimed yesterday.

The Saudi newspaper Al-Havat said that during the row 55-year-old Australian nurse Yyonne Gilford was struck over the head with a teapot, and then

Chief Political Correspondent

A ministerial aide yesterday said he would spoil his ballot

paper rather than vote for a

Tory election candidate who

supported abortion.
The remarks by Dr Robert

Spink, the Tory MP for Castle

Point and a parliamentary pri-

vate secretary at the Home Of-

fice, fuelled fears that abortion

now threatens to become an

election issue for the first time

They followed an attack on

abortion by Cardinal Basil

Hume. The Archibishop of

Westminster said in an interview

on GMTV: "I am quite con-

vinced that abortion is a great

stabbed with a knife she had

used to defend herself. Ms Gilford was taunted with being an "old lady" who would soon be sent home because of her age, the article said, quot-

ing Saudi police sources.

The newspaper, which is regarded as close to official thinking, said one of the two nurses confessed to the murder shortly after she was arrested by police on 20 December, allegedly withdrawing cash from Ms Gilford's bank account.

Officers had been keeping watch on a cash dispensing ma-chine after money went missing from Ms Gilford's account after the murder on 11 December. The other woman reportedly confessed two days later.

The newspaper also claims that fingerprints of only one of

43 W. L. C.

Air of realism: Detail of a crew member from a model of a Vickers Wellington bomber on display at the International Model Show at Olympia

Tory issues abortion threat

Pro-life and pro-choice camps reveal party splits

as ministerial aide reinforces Cardinal's remarks

Catholicism, said he would not

He said on GMTV: "I would

He added: "We have abortion

vote for a Tory candidate who

find it very difficult to vote for

the Tory candidate ... I would

probably personally spoil my

virtually on demand. I believe

politicians should look at

abortion laws and tighten it up.

The abortion of one twin while

mother's womb was an abomi-

nation and should not have

was "pro-choice"

vest London, which runs until Saturday and which is expected to attract some 50,000 visitors

unworthy of a civilised society."

As the leading Roman Catholic cleric in Britain, the Archbish-

op will give strength to the Pro-Life Alliance which is

threatening to field up to 50 can-

didates at the election to make

church will change its attitude

towards that, and I think in fu-

ture generations we'll be

pleased that somebody has

Dr Spink, a PPS to Anne

Widdecombe, the Home Office

Cardinal Hume said.

"There's no way in which the

abortion an election issue.

at the victim's flat. Diplomatic sources said the pair, Lucy McLauchlan, 31, from Dundee, and 41-year-old Deborah Parry, from the Midlands, had been escorted to the scene of the murder at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex, Dhahran, two days before Christmas where

they allegedly re-enacted the crime before Saudi investigators.

that if abortion became an elec-

tion issue, it would damage the

Labour Party more than the

Conservatives, who had fewer

supporters of the campaign for

A Tory source said: "If you

look at the two parties, there are

more [pro-choice MPs] on the

other side. They have more

women MPs who are obvious-

ly pro-choice and they have

Émily's List [a campaigning

The Labour frontbencher,

Clare Short, attacked the Car-

a woman's right to choose.

clared their innocence in conversations with relatives, are expected to be visited in jail by British consol, Tim Lamb, later today, when they will choose a

lawyer to represent them.
A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr Lamb would be seeking clarification from Saudi officials about the exact wording of the murder allegation and

whether there were any "ancil-lary" charges - a reference to rumours of theft.

The spokesman added that the intervention by the Saudi ambassador to Britain, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi, on Sauuday, had been "helpful", especially his comments that the death sentence was by no means automatic even for those found guilty of murder.

appeal

A hospital yesterday issued a ratheir Christmas holidays to cov-

Hertfordshire, issued the appeal

in the 15-to-24 age group.

The Department of Health said the current number of casout of every 100,000.

weather sent temperatures plunging to -7C in parts of the country, even the River Thames froze over in places. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents warned that appearances could be deceptive, and that no one should assume ice was thick enough to stand their w

Weather Centre, today would

Hospital after flu outbreak

dio appeal to call in nurses from er for sick colleagues as fears of a flu epidemic swept Britain. The Queen Elizabeth II Hos-

pital in Welwyn Garden City, for muses to cut short their holdays after being hit by its own "mini" flu epidemic at the same time as it was having to cope with an above average level of

turning to work today, three strains of flu - Wuhan, Singapore and Beijing A - are known to be circulating in Britain. The been reported in the North and

es was below epidemic level. In a bad year - such as 1989, when 25,000 Britons died of flu - infection rates can exceed 400

Elizabeth II Hospital, said: "We issued an appeal over local radio for nurses on time off to come in and help out.

because nurses ... deserve their holidays, but it is proving diffi-cult because of staff sickness and sheer patient numbers. We have had to open some surgical beds to general patients because there are so many of them." The flu scare came as icy

According to the London

abortion but leaving it to the bring more "bitterly cold" individual to make her choice. | conditions.

Latest figures suggest that 128 ont of every 100,000 peo-ple in the United Kingdom have gone down with the virus double the rate at the start of

With most of the country rehighest numbers of cases have

Ruth Ashmore, of the Queen

"It is not a nice thing to do,

only one hour from 11am to

The 9 million holders of Barclaycards spent up to £1.500 per second over the period - 10 per cent up on

saves woman

trapped in a ditch was rescued yesterday after police officer on arrival – 35 per pinpointed her whereabouts cent of those detected in by switching on their sirens so she could tell them when she heard them. The rescue took place in freezing temperatures in Epping Forest, Essex, after the 23-

year-old woman fell and hurt her back. She rang 999 but was unable to tell operators where she was. She was taken

LOUCEY UTAW

Eight tickets shared the
£9.8m jackpot in Saturday's
National Lottery draw with

significant shorts

Threat to life Police fear of Sinn Fein is dead leader

A leading member of Sinn Fein on Belfast City Council has been warned by police of an imminent attempt on his life, the party said yesterday. Alex Maskey was told last night that the Royal Ulster Constabulary had information that his life was

in imminent danger and he

should step up his personal security. The RUC said it could not comment on the personal security of anybody. The warming came hours after a bomb was found under the car of Sinn Fein's director Devon, last Friday, hours of elections in Londonderry,

Liam Duffy, and nine days after a leading Belfast republican, Eddie Copeland, suffered leg injuries when a bomb exploded under his car. There has been no claim of responsibility for either attack but the Ulster Freedom Fighters are believed to be ehind the new offensive, heightening fears the loyalist ceasefire is collapsing.

Hostage hurt in jail siege

An investigation was under way yesterday after a prisoner at a top security jail held a fellow immate hostage for five hours, the Prison Service said.

The siege at Wakefield prison in West Yorkshire ended early on Saturday when prison officers stormed into the cell where the man was being held. The hostage was treated in hospital for cuts to his throat and chest. A Prison Service spokesman said it was believed the hostage was held with some kind of weapon.

Great festive dash for cash

Barciays has reported a seasonal spending boom. In the week before Christmas there was a 10 per cent jump in demand for cash -£372.3m was dispensed by its cash machines. The busiest day was 21 December when £71.4m was dispensed from 3,100 of its machines. The busiest period was between 10am and 1pm on 23 December when £24.4m was taken out - including a record-breaking £8.8m in

Siren call

A lost mobile phone user

missing wife

Detectives trying to identify cremated human remains found in the boot of a car after businessman Derek Levon shot himself were yesterday examining a burned area near his farm. Experts were trying to establish whether the ashes and bone fragments found in a tin box were the remains of Mr Levon's wife, Pauline, who had cancer.

Mr Levon, 61, shot himself in front of police in a car at his farm near Witheridge, after his house in Silverton 10 miles away, was destroyed by

Det Supt John Smith told a news conference in Exeter yesterday that the police would like to hear from anyone who saw smoke or fires in the area of the farm since Saturday 21 December, when Mrs Levon, also in her

£12m rail plan for Peaks

Derbyshire County Council is urgently seeking financial help – including National Lottery cash - for the biggest-ever transport infrastructure scheme in the Peak District. National Park. A study says the £12m scheme to reopen 20 miles of track from Buxton to Matlock would attract 200,000 passengers a year and relieve tourist pressure on one of Britain's most picturesque but

cked beauty spots. This project would provide a vital link for the area and take cars and heavy lorries off the road," said council leader Martin Doughty. "By working in co-operation with other local authorities and rail operating companies, we hope to be able to attract funding and make progress with this exciting scheme."

Rise in illegal entry cases

The number of alleged illegal immigrants increased by 40 per cent last year, according to Home Office statistics. Illegal-entry action was initiated against 10,381 people in 1995, but only 3,020 were removed or voluntarily left the country, a 7 per cent drop.

According to the annual report of the Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Directorate, the decline in removals was due to an increase in the proportion claiming asylum, up from 32 per cent in 1993 to 67 pe cent in 1995. It noted that the largest single category of illegal entrant remained those who gained entry by deceiving an immigration 1995. Another 31 per cent, were smuggled into the country, an 83 per cent rise.

Lottery draw

to hospital with suspected hip and spinal injuries. winning numbers 8, 10, 20, 27, 31 and 39; bonus, 30. 27, 31 and 39; bonus, 30.

GPs set to make pay a poll issue

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Leaders of Britain's 30,000 family doctors are threatening to make public-sector pay rises an election issue unless the Government concedes big "catching up" increases in the new year. The Cabinet faces the

church's attitude had cost it the

support of her generation of

Ms Short - who had a strict Catholic upbringing - and her

ex-husband gave up their son, Toby, for adoption when he was

six months old. She was reunited

Ms Short said vesterday: "It's

ery sad that the Catholic

church retreats back on to this

territory. It lost almost all the

women of my generation be-

cause of its attitude to sex.

They suggest that abortion is the

primary moral question; it is

not." She described the church's

and said she favoured a law

regulating the availability of

with him in October.

dilemma of imposing pay re-straint, weeks before the election, on 5 million public-sector workers, including GPs, after MPs awarded themselves a rise of 26 per cent this year.

Reports of the pay-review bodies for public-sector workers, including doctors, nurses, teachers, civil servants, judges and the armed forces, are due to be delivered to December 19 to be delivered to Downing Street by the end of next month. Last night GPs said they will

be in the vanguard of protests if their demands for big rises go unheard. The British Medical Association has told the Doctors and Dentists Pay Review Body that doctors need a 58 per cent pay rise in April to catch up with rises for similar groups in the private sector over the past 10 years. "It is going to be very rocky. Every year it has been getting worse. The Government may think that the doctors will be quiet, but there could well be more trouble because of the coming election," said a BMA source.

Ministers, who have been trying to mollify GPs with a White Paper promising other changes, privately admit rises higher than inflation will be needed.

But the Treasury is determined to hold down public-sector pay, only allowing rises financed by productivity. The Treasury made an implicit threat that inflationary pay awards in the health service could hit patient care in the November Budget.

The BMA is seeking to head

off threats by representatives of the GP fundholders that they would pull out from the NHS plans to replace fundholding with a new system of joint com-missioning for services from hospitals by groups of GPs cov-ering an area. The BMA is seeking talks with Chris Smith, Labour's health spokesman, to clarify his policy on replacing fundholding by GPs, which he set out last month.

The National Association of Fundholding Practitioners is due this week to release its re sponse, rejecting his plans. But weekend reports that

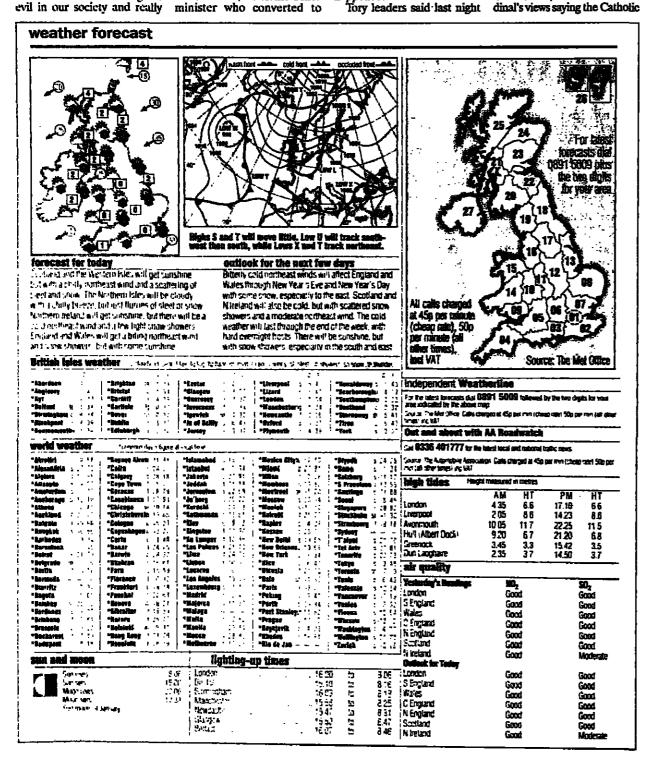
fundholders were threatening to quit the NHS were dismissed as "petulant". A BMA spokesman said: "There is a lot of confusion about Labour's plans but GPs are not going to leave the NHS. GPs have around 1,800 patients on their lists. It would mean they would all have to be prepared to pay a substantial sum for their health care in addition to pay for the NHS

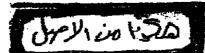
through their taxes.
"GPs are so well-entrenched in the NHS, through pay and allowances, despite low morale, to talk about walking out. It is

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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TITLE PARMETERATION - BROKADHI ON DECCEMBRIK 1880

Cuba posting for British police in war on drugs

Two Scotland Yard officers are going to Cuba as part of an of-fensive to close down drug smuggling routes through the Caribbean to Britain, Home Office minister Tom Sackville announced vesterday.

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In a separate move, the Foreign Office has also amounced that it is planning to take new powers to crack down on money laundering in the five Caribbean dependent territo-

Mr Sackville, who speaks Spanish, agreed to send the police officers after a meeting with President Fidel Castro. the revolutionary leader, in Cuba last month, where he signed a Customs and Excise co-

"I had a hunch that Cuba was straight and they were making an effort to tackle the drugs problem," the Home Office

minister told The Independent. "They are a key player in the

Joint initiative aims to check Caribbean smuggling route. Colin Brown reports

marine transport, and we need to work as close as possible with drugs. The Cuban leader them to combat the trafficking." Mr Sackville, only the second minister in 25 years to visit Cuba - the first was Ian Taylor, the trade and industry minister came back convinced that Cuba was committed to combating the drugs trade and could be trusted with intelligence shar-

Cuba is being targeted by the drugs barons in South America because its waters are barred to the US Coastguard. Drugs are dropped off by light aircraft, and picked up from the water to be shipped on to Europe through Cuban ports.

Britain was wary of ex-changing intelligence with some other countries in the area, where ministers and officials can be corrupted by the huge

with drugs. The Cuban leader made little small talk in their meeting, but in a lengthy speeck denounced drug trafficking as a crime against the revolution, and committed his authorities to co-operating with British police and customs officers to prevent Cuba being used for the transfer of drugs from Colombia to

Europe.
British intelligence helped in the seizure by the US Coastguard of a massive shipment of six tons of cocaine via Cuba. In a breakthrough in US-Cuban relations, Cuban officials are ready to testify against the smugglers in a trial early in the new year in the United States. But the British government also fears that not enough is be-

ing done to combat the laundering of the money from the drugs trade through offshore banks in Caribbean countries. Britain has already infroduced its own legislation to extend the powers of seizure and disclosure for bank accounts believed to be used in money laundering. Foreign Office sources yes-

terday confirmed that Britain is considering extending its powers to introduce the same antilaundering measures in the five dependent territories - the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands. Montserrat, and the British Virgin Islands.

The Cayman Islands, worldfamous for its banking, and Bermuda have already begun action against money laundering through their banks. But the Government fears some of the other islands need to take more action.

The aim is to persuade the countries to carry out action voluntarily. It will be one of the priorities for the new governor of the Turks and Caicos, John Kelly, an expert on the Caribbean; who took over re-



Against all odds: Andrew Robinson, who suffers from a rare form of autism, sits surrounded by his books; this year

Autistic boy top of the class

Lucy Ward **Education Correspondent**

A student born with a rare form of autism which rules out everyday tasks such as making a cup of tea, has beaten thousands of other teenagers to score among the country's top A-level results,

Nineteen-year-old Andrew Robinson celebrated Christmas with three medals from the country's largest A-level exam board - one for gaining the highest mark nationally in general studies and the others for coming within the top five candidates in two other subjects.

The achievements mark a milestone in an educational career which saw him removed from junior school at seven. The hoy who couldn't mix with his classmates left specialists divided - some thought he was gifted while others saw had behaviour.

Six years later, Andrew was diagnosed as suffering from Asperger's syndrome, a littleunderstood form of autism causing obsessional behaviour and difficulties with relationships. Yet the condition also revealed itself in a startling academic ability. With the help of 15 hours a week home tuition, he gained five GCSEs and a sixth-form place at the tertiary college near his Derby home, setting him on the path to the awards from the Associated Examining Board.

Now in the first year of a degree in politics at Nottingham University, Andrew said: "Asperger's has given me abilities as well as disabilities."

Among his strengths are tremendous powers of critical analysis. But any subject involving sheer description or learning by rote is out of reach, ruling out

maths, technology or languages. Andrew's parents face the reality of a disorder which saw their son score highest among more than 18,000 candidates, yet which means they must continue to care for him.

His father, Graham, speaks of Andrew's "amazing ability to focus ... But that tunnel vision is part of the problem - he can tell you all about Karl Marx but

Smugglers look east in move to establish new cocaine route

Common purpose: Tom Sackville meeting President

Matthew Brace

The South American drug cartels are spreading their smuggling operations from Central America and the western Caribbean to the 29 countries of the eastern Caribbean stretching from Surinam to the British Virgin Islands.

Tightened security in the established cocaine conduit areas have forced the drug cartels to change tack and now it is feared they will exploit the eastern Caribbean's comparative unfamiliarity with drug smuggling by flooding the new route with drugs for Britain, the rest of Europe and the United States. Evidence from the United

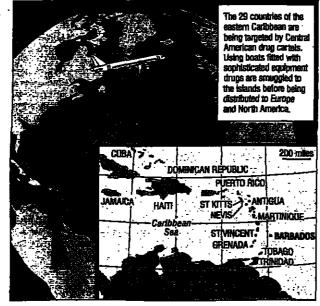
Nations Drug Control Programme, based in Barbados and funded chiefly by the British government, shows that 180 tonnes of cocaine were smuggled into Europe from South America via the eastern Caribbean this year - roughly 50 kilos a day. About 60 per cent came via Britain, arriving on cargo ships and passenger flights.
As much as one-fifth of the

Europe-bound total is estimated to have travelled with couriers – sometimes holidaymakers and it is believed there could be as many as three cocaine runs a week to Britain.

Manytmore British holidaymakers are taking advantage of lower holiday prices in the Caribbean and despite a graphic film now showing on flights from the UK warning of the penalties of drug smuggling, sev-eral are ignoring the risks and carrying consignments of co-caine back to the UK.

The director of the UN programme in Barbados, Dr Sandro Calvani, said the narcotics

trade is like a halloon. "You squeeze it here and it pops our over there. As their



em Caribbean nations worked together to stifle the threat: With limited resources, however, and some countries only having one or two patrol boats to try to intercept the powerful speedboats of the smugglers. they seem outgumed.

The traffickers are eager for political power in order to dictate the rules of the game'

Barbados is a prime target for the traffickers. As the Caribbean's most easterly outpost with arguably the best air and sea freight facilities in the region and close trade links with Britain, it serves their purpose well. Despite the island having some of the toughest drug penalties in the region, 827 drug cases were recorded up to

came found in a cargo ship in Spain last month were traced back to the island and in London in December 1994, £1m worth of cocaine was seized on a British Airways flight from the

Other islands in the Leeward and Windward chain are also at risk. A recent Internet advertisement promoted Antiguan money-laundering services by promising: "We handle cash derived from ANY activity." And a string of recent murders and disappearances in St Kitts was also linked with trafficking.

An EU report on the current crisis highlighted the islands' vulnerability and warned that it posed a threat to the region's democracy. Weak economies, underpaid and demoralised officials and low counter-narcotics expenditure were laying eastern Caribbean states wide open to the traffickers.

Dr Calvani fears that the drug barons may soon infiltrate the political arena. "Whereas traffickers in the past have been interested solely in the business side of their trade, now they are also eager for political power," he said. "They want to gain this against 745 cases for the entire power in order to dictate the

Years of trauma for rape victims

A woman and her nine-year-old daughter raped by an man who threatened them with a knife will never recover from their ordeal, a child psychologist said

last night.

Despite years of therapy, the
53-year-old woman and her
child – assaulted in the early hours of Boxing Day as they slept in a north London groundfloor flat - would not escape their "intense violation", according to Professor Joan Free-man, of Middlesex University.

This will never leave them for the rest of their lives. They will never get over it. I don'i think you can ever be as you were before. You have changed and it will always be there. It's not a bad cold you get over. It becomes a part of you, an experience as traumatic as this." the professor added.

Professor Freeman said the mother -- who, with her daughter, was staying with a relative in Northolt for Christmas would probably be more trau-

matised than the young girl.
"I think the girl stands a
better chance because she's only nine and, without being disive, children are remarkably "But for the mother, be cause she was in a position of

responsibility, it will be worse for

her. She's got to deal with the

violation of herself and of her

daughter and all that guilt." Professor Freeman, who said the couple would need at least a year to come to terms with their ordeal and might need psy-chotherapy every day, added: "The mother will also have a lot of guilt to deal with. She will be guilty for herself and guilty for

She added that the nineyear-old's success in coming to terms with the ordeal depended on her level of security be fore the assault. "How well she will get over it depends on where she started from."

Police are looking for a man said to be in his early 20s, between 5ft 11ms and 6ft tall, very thin, with thin fingers, cleanshaven and with chiselled

NEW INTERNATIONALIST MAGAZINE John doesn't get it SO HE DOESN'T KNOW that free market economics is making poor people poorer, he doesn't see the connection between personal greed and the state we're in, and

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routes have been closed down the narco-traffickers have been pushed further and further east so these islands are now beginning to see a lot more drug activity," he said. He added that 1997 will be a crucial year in the the end of October 1996, fight against trafficking which against 745 cases for the entire power in order to would only be won if all the east-year 1995. Twelve tonnes of co-rules of the game."

Hertford SGI4 IYB (no szamp required)

Charles backs multi-million faith centre

A City highflyer's dream of creating a £120m Christian centre in London for the Millentowards becoming reality next

The Millennium Commission is due to decide whether to back merchant banker Ken Costa's vision of a "thriving. ecumenical Christian community" on the south bank of the

The scheme would transform a nine-acre site near Battersea power station into a giant "village" featuring a 10.000-seat church, a base for charities working with the poor, sick and disadvantaged and short-stay accommodation for

young people.
The USIT youth and student travel company would use the budget hotel and has pledged £50 million to match £50 million requested from the Millennium Commission.

If the Commission gives its backing, a planning application would be presented within months. Mr Costa and his church, the Holy Trinity Bromp-

ton in Knightsbridge, London, is preparing to place an option to secure the nine-acre site by the end of January.

It is confident of raising the remaining £20 million needed from corporate and private Mark Elsdon-Dew, the pro-

ject spokesman, said yester-day: "We're very excited by it. We want it to be the kind of place which people in London can be proud of."

Ken Costa. 46, vice chairman of merchant bankers SBC Warhurg, and a church warden and lay preacher at Holy Trinity Brompton, the largest Anglican church in Britain, has harboured a vision of such a centre for some time, Mr Elsdon-Dew said.

But it is only in the last year that feasibility studies and plans have been drawn up and a charitable trust, Millennium Village, formed to spearhead development. Mr Costa, who has provided significant financial support, is its chairman.

The influential vicar of Holy Trinity, the Rev Sandy Millar, backing. The Archbishop of Canterbury, other leading Anglican churchmen, the Baptist and Methodist churches and Cardinal Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic church in Eng-land and Wales, have all expressed keen interest.

Prince Charles's private office is acting as consultant. Having previously called for a more spiritual approach to the Milennium celebrations, the Prince is understood to see the potential union in the scheme of two of his greatest interests
- spiritual exploration and
British architecture.
His office said: "The Prince
welcomes the idea of building

an ecumenical Christian centre ... to coincide with the beginning of the Third Millennium. Mr Costa said: "Millennium

Village is a national celebration of the Christian millennium demonstrating the links beween belief and social action in the community.
"We are also delighted to be

working with the Prince of Wales' Projects Office to ensure that Millennium Village expresses architecturally this exciting vision of unity and



Roam with a view: A rambler taking in the scenery at Pwildu Bay on the Gower penin

pectro.



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The Link

Right to roam' campaign faces a tough climb

Stephen Goodwin Hemage Correspondent

The campaign for a public night tree and over mountain and moor will get an unwelcome

BMC favours an "informal approach", securing permission to complete particular craes diwalk in an area by negotiation with individual owners. The Gountry Landowners' Association

calls it "managed access?"
Bit to the Rambiers Asso-ciation and many climbers, the mountaineers' approach smacks of "revisionism" at precisely the wrong moment. Campaigners are assious to hold Labour a right to roam, subject to common sense restrictions, if it

wins the general election.

Tony Blair, the Labour vering on a promise he has been told could alienate rural voters. The commitment, with its awkward socialist overtones, was in-herited from John Smith. So far. Labour frontbeachers have insisted it will be carried through. But the BMC's "Access Charter", and the council's respectable standing in the outdoor movement, could help Mr Blair cover any retreat.

"The charter will be used to drive a wedge into what should be a united camp," said Jim Per-rin, the mountaineering author and one of climbing world's few political radicals. "It will be used to undermine the Bill."

An "inept" BMC access team had fallen for the blandishments of the CLA and a seat at the negotiating table, Mr Perrin said. "It's the traditional give these people the appearance of influence and respectability and they will be happy.

BMC and RA representatives attended the CLA's lavish Access 2000 conference last month, but only the ramblers spoke out against the landowners' line that access to the countryside beyond public rights of way must be agreed voluntari-

ly and managed.

A draft of the charter does not rule out legislation but argues that access has become a much more complex issue since the 1930s - the time of mass trespasses on the Pennine moors. It calls for a "thorough review" and initiatives to "bring greater public access to both up-land and lowland countryside in England and Wales in ways which are in keeping with the needs of land managers and wildlife conservation".

open country could lead to climbers being barred from crags in lowland or cultivated areas in a "backlash" by landownleader, has shown signs of wa- ers. Labour has limited open country to mountain and moorland; the BMC wants to add cliff and foreshore; and the RA would like to go further and in-clude downland and forests.

A paper prepared earlier this year by Jeremy Barlow, the BMC's access officer, warned that concentrating on improved access to target sites might be seen as "provocative" and as undermining the RA's attempt to get legislation. David Beskine, the RA's as-

sistant director, regretted what he saw as a shift in BMC policy over the last four years.

"They're not interested in mountain walkers any more, just themselves and their friends who go climbing on individual crags. They seem happy to slip into the position as acting as the agent for restrictions. We're strategy of those in power. Let's very sad about it," he said.

DAILY POEM

Elvis

By Stephen Knight

He's out there somewhere, in the dark a pair of oil-stained overalls, a monkey wrench. When drivers park to stretch their legs and scratch their balls

he appears with a chamois leather in a pail of suds. He doesn't pass the time of night, curse the weather nor laugh; he only cleans the glass.

Bored, tired from counting off the states they've spanned, they can't see how odd he is, the man who never talks;

the tubby, baiding guy who waits The one who walks across the forecourt like a god.

This week and next, The Independent will be printing poems from the 10 volumes shortlisted for the 1996 T S Eliot Prize. The prize, set up by the Poetry Book Society in 1993, honours the year's best collection of new verse. It will be presented by Mrs Valerie Eliot on 13 January. "Elvis" comes from Stephen Knight's second collection, Dream City Cinema, published by Bloodaxe.

Electronic curfew tags fail the test of crime

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The Home Office was forced to put own research showed that a quarter of the young criminals fitted with

electronic tags in pilot schemes had breached their orders. The study, published today, also reveals that each of the electronic monitoring orders are likely to be costing the taxpayer more than four times the cost of putting the offenders on probation.

The report examines the first full year of trial schemes into the use of the American-style tags in Greater being monitored, Securicor Custo-

Manchester, Norfolk and Berkshire dial Services, the private security firm which began in July 1995, under which courts can impose curfew orders on offenders aged 16 and over on a brave face yesterday after its restricting their liberty from between two and 12 hours a day for up to six months.

> Of the 83 tagged, mostly for dishonesty or possession of drugs, 19 either tore off their electronic bracelets - fitted either to the ankle or wrist - or committed other offences. Fifteen were subsequently resentenced to custody.

While just 236 young criminals have been tagged since the pilots bewhich monitors the schemes in Greater Manchester and Reading, Berkshire, claimed yesterday that the research had judged the US import

But there was a lower-key response from Baroness Blatch, the Home Office minister, who said: "As the report makes clear, tagging can be a worthwhile community sentence. Tagging represents a useful additional sentence for courts."

Although the research, Curfew Orders with Electronic Monitoring, was never designed to specifically test whether tagging should be, or was being, used as an alternative to custody,

Lady Blatch added it was a "cost-ef-fective" alternative to imprisonment er than ministers may wish to admit. fective" alternative to imprisonment and that the research had found that some magistrates viewed it as such.

This is in contradiction to the original intention that it was to be used as an addition to the existing range of community penalties, and lends weight to reports that some magistrates have been persuading potential tagees to accept monitoring or risk being sent to jail for petty offences that would not normally merit imprisonment.

Alongside the emerging policy vacuum over how tagging ought to be used, an analysis of a recent parliamentary answer reveals that

In what appears to be an attempt to massage the figures, the Home Office suggested yesterday that the cost of a tagging order was "estimated" at being slightly less than for an average probation order and less than half the cost of a custodial sen-

tence of the same length. Harry Fletcher, assistant general retary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said yesterday that the average cost of probation was £50 a week while prison cost £425

a week. A parliamentary reply on 4 December from Baroness Blatch to Lord Harris revealed that £2.4m had been spent on the experiment so far. Even excluding the £1.3m likely to have been spent on start-up costs. each order has probably cost in the region of £4.782.

laking an average curfew order of four months, the weekly cost would be in the region of £367 a week. In fact, the Home Office cost "estimate" might only be feasible if the courts imposed some 15,000 tag orders a year – the level officials have suggested would be needed for private security firms to operate schemes profitably. According to reports from the pilot areas, Securical staff have been called upon to perform a up, not down."

fetching of a prescription or a four-pack of lager during curfew hours to counselling an offender threatening suicide. The company later confirmed that the average number of offenders per member of staff was

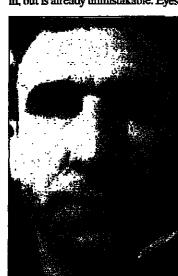
Mr Fletcher said: "A study of just 83 people is too few to make an evalnation but I think this invalidates the whole project. This level of support simply would not be available if the scheme was extended nationally, which indicates that the rate of breaking of orders, which is already double that of probation, would go

Living proof that Madam Tussaud's has a new model army

It is not easy to capture the wit of the singer Jarvis Cocker in wax - or any other part of him for that matter. But the sculptors are giving it

In Madam Tussaud's day wax works were fairly crude. Not now. Technological advances and increased attention to detail are leading to ever more life-like models worth £20,000 apiece. Subjects now spend up to six hours at several sittings to enable the sculpture to measure and mould to perfection. It

is six months before a star is born. The Pulp singer is only three weeks in, but is already unmistakable. Eyes



part vacant, part soulful, enigmatic expression and slim limbs are taking shape. The effete pose was chosen by Jarvis himself, as were his clothes (black flares and Seventies jacket).

Stuart Williamson, 48, who together with the make-up team, has sculptured the waxworks for 17 years. said: "We put a lot more effort than we used to into making the models lifelike. We take hundreds of measurements. We even get a sample of hair if they'll let us. We are meticulous about detail and the results are much better than they were 10 years ago." The uncannily lifelike model of the footballer Eric Cantona, unveiled

earlier this year, is proof of this. Julia Deane, 32, a hair and makeun artist, has seen many advances in colorume techniques since she joined Madam Tussaud's in central London 12 years ago. The transition from water colour to oil paint has been significant. "Water and wax don't mix well," she said. "It used to be impossible to get fine detail. There was freckle, dot and vein. You can gradually build up the texture to create

a three-dimensional look." But the success of the make-up depends on the model. "If someone looks like the real person it is much easier to colour," she said. "I'm doing Meryl Streep at the moment. Stu paid a lot of attention to detail, so I'm not having to compensate for slight discrepancies."

Not every waxwork ages at the same rate. The Beatles still parade their Sixties style, but the Princess of Wales, like many of the royals, is con-stantly updated. Diana's latest looka-show at Madam Tussaud's and the saud's. "Her hands get scratched

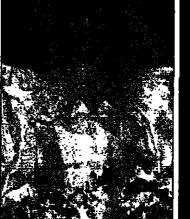


With oil, you can put in every little like has been hailed as a triumph, a marked improvement on previous models. She originally gave one sittors have since relied on photographs

> a turntable and swing them round gently, taking photographs from every angle," Mr Williamson said. "We take pictures of their eyes and enlarge them 20 times to get every

worked without the aid of photography, oil paint or technological sive public adulation. "Joanna Limiley [the actress] has to be takwizardry, and her final work, a selfen out on a regular basis, because she portrait from 1842 when she was 81, is so popular," said Diane Robertis still on show. She stands centre stage in the exhibition which draws

millions of visitors each year.





Money pyramid set to beat the law at third attempt

A pyramid-style money-making scheme twice outlawed by the High Court is expected to be launched for the third time carly in the new year.

Peter Reece, UK director of their fingers burnt before the the organisation Titan, said he court action. was "hopeful" that a pilot pro-ject - Titan Three - could be operating in Scotland shortly. "It will be to prove that the scheme really does work," he said.

He also confirmed that the economics professor, Patrick Minford, one of the so-called Six Wise Men who advise the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had completed a computer analysis of the Titan schemes and had concluded they were a legitimate business gamble. A copy of the report is believed to have gone to the Prime Minis-

The first Titan venture was banned by the High Court last year, and lost an appeal to the Court of Appeal, after the Department of Trade and Industry successfully applied to have the scheme wound down. One judge described such ventures

and relies on investors involving family and friends to recoup their payments, are doomed to

They also claim that between them thousands of investors money venture - though Titan down to cruise. We can prove that the market will not cause of the DTI's legal action. saturate."

The news that Titan, which involves investors paying in up to £3,000, and then receiving commission for each new investor they introduce directly or indirectly, is to start trading again will dismay those who had



scheme was worth gamble

One told The Independent: "It is a rip-off and I'm afraid that some people fall for it."

However, Mr Reece, who as "pernicious".

The DTI argued that such a business, which has no product and relies on invariant and relies on the relies of the tion that such a scheme was bound to fail as it ran out of in-

vestors was "absolute bullshit". He said: "Getting a venture like this started is like flying an aeroplane. You take off on fulllost millions of pounds in the throttle but then you settle

The organisers have now added in an investment element, where some of the cash in invested in high-risk shares in the United States.

Mr Reece, whose organisation has already spent £1.7m in legal fees, said that supporters included the backbench Conservative MP Sir Michael Grylls. Titan intended to take its case to the House of Lords and to the European Court of

Justice if necessary.

Mr Reece said: "We would prefer to sit down and talk about the need for regulation, but if need be we will fight and we will win. This is a pioneering business. The DTI are going to lose this one."

However, at the end of January the new Trading Schemes Act becomes law, which will further restrict the way many network marketing systems can operate. It will also ban those schemes based solely on money-circulation which currently fall outside the scope of the Fair Trading Act.

Critics say the new act, introduced by the former minister Sir Nicholas Scott, is opaque and will effectively criminalise 300,000 people currently involved in legitimate network marketing.

Titan's lawyers say they will be seeking to make the Act nonapplicable because it contravenes European Union law.

But a DTI spokesman said it was designed to protect the public from the "get rich quick schemes" which had increased in number in recent years.

Antibiotic claim gives hope to **Gulf** veterans

Leslie Burger, commander of the Walter Reed Army Medical

Center, said government and in-

brought together next month to

determine how to study Dr

Larry Cammock, treasurer of

the British Gulf Veterans As-

sociation, said: "It is about the most interesting conclusion that we have had ... Maybe this

will open the doors for long-term treatment for the lads."

Dr Nicolson said he found a

genetically altered version of

mycoplasma in the blood of half

the several hundred sick vet-

Nicolson's research.

Scientists from the US Army are investigating claims that the illnesses of Gulf war veterans are caused by bacteria in the blood and can be cured by antibiotics. Garth Nicolson, a molecular bi-ologist specialising in cancer re-search. claims to have successfully treated 55 out of 73

veterans with a six-week course Last week, after pressure by American politicians, the US Army agreed to study the research, which could mark a breakthrough in treating thousands of American and British

Dr Nicolson, who was head of cancer research at the University of Texas, detected microorganisms called mycoplasma which were leaving the veterans with breathing difficulties, muscle weakness, depression and

other symptoms. His findings would explain why many veterans appear to have passed on symptoms to members of their families.

work with his wife, Nancy, concluded that the bacteria were not caught in the desert but were passed to the troops via chemicals they were exposed to. In a research paper he wrote: We consider the most likely

sources of potential chronic infectious agents to be the vaccines and Iraqi offensive chem-He believes that the virulent

erans he has tested. Although mycoplasma infections are common and usually benign, Dr Nicolson said he had detected a particularly virulent strain. The Nicolsons said they had successfully treated many of the

veterans by giving them a course of doxycycline antibi-otics. Dr Nicolson, who left the University of Texas to set up and become director of the non-profit-making Institute for Molecniar Medicine in Irvine, Dr Nicolson, who did the California, has clashed with the Pentagon over the controversial

course of his research. Last week Donna Boltz, a Pentagon spokeswoman, was quick to warn that the government had not agreed to fund medical research into mycoplasma and veterans.

But Dr Nicolson's cause has been taken up by Congressman Norm Dicks, of Washington state, whose intervention led to last week's development. mycoplasma had been genetically altered for use in biolog-

Mr Dicks said: "We owe it to the people who are still ill ... to Last week Major-General look at this more thoroughly."



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Reared under a Tory rule, the Big Mac generation takes a taste of polling power

Michael Streeter gauges the mood of Britain's first-time voters

They are the Big Mac Generation --young people who grew up knowing life only under the Conservatives. When they were born in the late-Seventies, the obiquitous Big Mac had just started to appear on British high streets. Today, perhaps instead of getting an engineering apprenticeship, school-leavers are as likely as not to

find work serving burgers.

Last October, The Independent

visited a group of voters in Redditch. the west Midlands home of socalled Mondeo man, to monitor how the voters' views changed with the political currents.

Last week we returned to Redditch, this time to speak to a crosssection of young people able – but not necessary willing – to vote for the first time in next year's general elec-tion. We shall visit them again as the election looms closer to see if their

Rachel Putt is typical of many young voters. Her opinion of polit-ical parties and of Westminster practices can be neatly summed up in one brief expression: a plague on all their

"I think politicians should stop arguing and try to agree more and offer something together," she said. "It's the bickering that puts me off, I mean, what is the point of it?"

As an 18-year-old taking business studies at North East Worcestershire College (New College) her main con-cern is understandably education and how to make ends meet next year. [At 18] you get all the help you need but when you're 19 you don't get much assistance from the Government and next year's going to be much harder," she said

But this is where the link between issues and policies is broken for many of the first-timers; many do not know know who stands for what or what the different policies might be.

Sam McMahon, 20, a university student in Redditch for the Christmas holidays, is blunt about his cynicism. "I think whichever party gets in, nothing will change that much for the better." He added: "I'm not even sure if I'll vote."

The move towards abstention, in



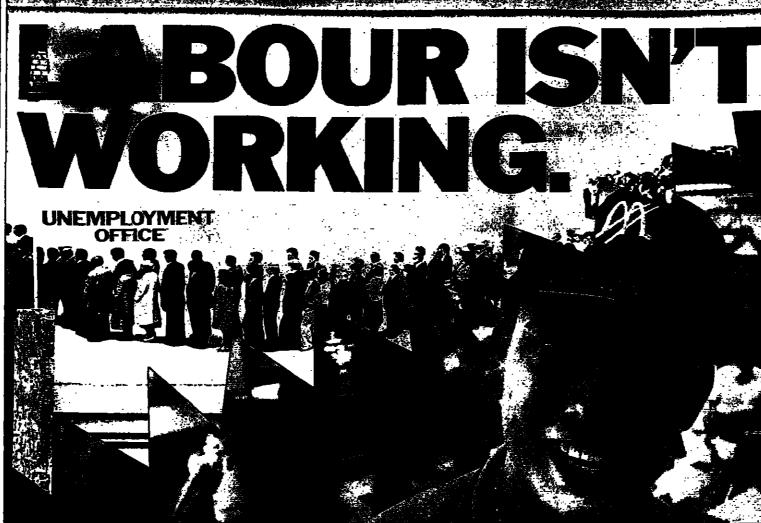
Rachel Putt: 'Politicians should stop arguing



it's time for a change'



Sarah Cox: 'Doubtful if New Labour will deliver'



Andrew Davies: choose not to vote



Tim Halmshaw: Blair is akin to 'a salesman'

Facing the future: The slogan which helped the Tories to power in 1979; and a McDonald's manager, Ian Wright, surrounded by faces of a generation which knows no other government Photographs: Gavin Fogg

some cases as a deliberate protest vote, in others as a sign of indifference, seems a powerful one.

Andrew Davies, 19, an A-level student at Arrow Vale High School, typifies the view. "I think I will make a deliberate choice not to vote - I do not think the parties offer me anything." The Conservatives he regards as "pretty disgusting", a party that likes to make moral postures but

'does not have a leg to stand on".

Nor is there much warmth for Tony Blair's New Labour. "Blair is too much like a Conservative, it's all just propaganda." But if Andrew did vote it would be for Labour. This reluctant support for Tony

Blair is quite widespread and may represent a real worry for his party. lan Wright, 19, a floor manager at McDonald's in the town, has little

time for Mr Blair. "He's too smarmy isn't he?" This was not last reference to the S-word among our group. Tim Halmshaw, 18, also from Arrow Vale, said: "Tony Blair seems to be full of ideas, but ... he seems

a "salesman".

His fellow pupil Sarah Cox, 18 on Boxing Day, is also doubtful. "New Labour seem to have a lot of ideas, but whether they will follow them through is another thing."

John Major generally fared bet-ter than Tony Blair, and better than the Tory Party in general. Robert Bishop, 19, a student reading combined studies, thought him "like-able". Alice Melvin, 21, who works

at the town's ABC cinema, thought

him "quite nice, a decent bloke". However, a significant minority concurred with Iain Farquhar's view of the Prime Minister. Iain, 18 in Febto be saying anything he can to get in." Mr Blair was, said Tim, akin to ruary, said: "I'm not that keen on Major, he doesn't seem to have much of a personality at all."

Apart from education, few issues minate the imagination of the fasttime voters. Europe, the issue that was barely raised as an influence on how people would vote. However, for those who did mention Europe and the single currency there was an underlying euro-scepticism - with a small 'e'.

Adam Browne, 18, another pupil at Arrow Vale, has not made up his mind whether, or for whom, to vote, but he is sure of his mind on Europe. "I do not want a single currency." he said. "I think it would be bad for the country.

However, there is a general acceptance of, and in some cases support for, closer European ties. Michelle Oldfield, 18, from Arrow Vale, said: "I think we are going to integrate more with Europe, so we are not left behind."

Some of The Independent's group. though in the minority, had decided which way they would vote. Richard Walker, 19, a bartender, said he would almost certainly be voting Labour. "I think it's time for a change," he said. Tony Blair's leadership was a factor in his views.

Luke Davis, 18, a student at NEW College, said: "With Labour we would begoing into the realms of the unknown." Tim Halmshaw said the Conservatives would also get his vote.

But, of those who had made up

their minds, most veered towards the

"They have not done anything

particularly wrong."
Fellow pupil Michelle felt the economy was an important factor in the Tories winning her support. "Unemployment is falling and things seem to be going all right."

One crumb of comfort for Labour

may be that only one out of our sample had any passed-down notion of what the last Labour Government had been like; even if that one was far from flattering.

"The idea of a Labour Government doesn't frighten me," said Ian Wright. "But from what I know, they were not very good at handling the



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China's new gamblers discover it's easier to speculate than accumulate

Teresa Poole

It had been a good day for Lian Hongving, despite the collapsing stock market. At the Huaxia share-trading company in central Peking she had netted 600 yuan (£50) profit by selling some shares in a quoted Chinese department-store company. That was about as much as a week's salary in her old job in a foreign bank, which she gave up last year to have more time to play the financial markets. "I

"My husband and his friend went into the market in 1994, and they persuaded me to join in. Now my whole family lives on it. I do quite well – all my husband's friends praise me." Ms Lian, 36, spends most

days at the broking house, and other punters packed into the smoke-filled room had pointed her out as a successful investor.

This has been a nerve-testing month for China's 21 million stockmarket investors; a jet-propelled bull run followed by a warning in the Communist mouthpiece, the People's Daily,

burning the pockets of millions of new investors. The *People's Daily* seemed almost gleeful at the dramas. "Stockmarkets are extremely risky, but in the past few months not a few people forgot this point," said a front-page commentary after the government's warnings.

As a result of the commen-

tary, the paper hoasted, "many people have observed the market changes and seen many things revealed and gained an even deeper understanding of the market". The editorial did not take credit for the sharp drop in prices, however. The decline was due to a lack of buying interest, it said.

At Huaxia, government at-tempts to cool the speculation had not dimmed the enthusiasm this week, although prices collapsed by almost a third after the People's Daily article. Chen Guang, 28, a businessman, said: "Night and day I think about trading shares, much more than I think about my girlfriend. When I make a correct decision, the happiness I feel is unspeakable". In July he made a £3,000 profit selling shares in the Shanghai-quoted Cheng Huang



Rush to invest: But what goes up sometimes come down with a bang, as millions of novice stockmarket speculators discovered to their cost this month

ver, was playing for smaller so this is the only way to make extra money. So four of us retired old men put our money together and come here in turn. One of our group is very clever, he used to be a cadre in the trade ministry.

Mrs Cai said her 24-year-old son had given up his previous job. "At first he lost money, but

from share-trading, and even buys things for me.

China started its stockmarket experiment in 1990, opening bourses in Shanghai and Shenzhen. This year investors have jumped from 12 million to 21 million, mostly concentrated in big cities. The Shanghai Securities News is printed at 25 sites and often sells its 300,000

people this year chasing a limited number of shares, prices soared. By the time the government decided to cool the speculation, the Shenzhen market had more than quadrupled since the beginning of 1996, and

Shanghai more than doubled. Most of this year's nine million new investors had, until a few weeks ago, only experi-enced a rising market. Li Qian, copies by breakfast. enced a rising market. Li Qian, With the growing number of spokeswoman for the Shanghai

Stock Exchange, said: "Those newcomers are not so clear about the risk. At the beginning they only see profit-making by their neighbours, so they just rush into the market and put their savings in quite high-risk

The People's Daily article had been published, she said, just before prices "went mad". Chinese investors have to buy local-currency-denominat-

ed "A" shares, while foreign investors buy foreign-currency-de-nominated "B" shares. In November, the cheaper ' share markets also rocketed doubling in a month - as Chinese investors piled in, believ-

a blind eye. The system had relaxed to the stage where flourishing a photocopy of a foreign passport or a Hong Kong ID on a "B" share account in Shenzhen. The rules have now been tightened again.

China says it remains committed to the expansion of the stockmarkets. But market regulators have set a deadline of 1 January for China's brokerages to start doing more to teach their clients that markets have bears as well as bulls - just in case the past weeks have not

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Mary States

RIME CHARLING

E Skoren

A Rolls by any other name brings sweet success

Roaring into the centre of town the other day on my Honda Superhawk motorcycle, I realised that I was travelling behind a Rolls-Royce bearing a silver label stating that the car was called "Full Success".

There is nothing surprising about trav-elling behind a Rolls-Royce; Hong Kong has more of these cars, on a per capita basis, than where I expected to see "Silver Spirit", was unusual. The British car company seemed to be making a special accommodation for the Hong Kong market - where it is prac-tically impossible to sell anything without esting that it will bring success and prestige to the prospective customer.

Checking with Spencer Lam, the general sales manager for Rolls-Royce, I discovered that the owner had indeed chosen the name. "You're so lucky to see that car", Mr Lam told me, "it's very special". Apparently Rolls-Royce customers are given whatever they ask for on their cars. As Christmas time is the season of

religion, I freely offer this piece of intelligence to the Rolls-Royce marketing department. They should note that the lucky owner is definitely onto something which could help shift even more Rolls-Royces.

I know this because a friend of mine spent some time as an advertising copywriter and HONG KONG DAYS

found himself putting together an advert for a luxurious German car. The manufacturers were very proud of its technological innovations and its many engineering prominently in the advertisement.

"You can't sell a car on this basis in Hong Kong", objected my friend. "Why? This is very successful in Germany", said his client. As the client is always right, an advertisement was duly produced highlighting the technological wonders of the new

model, saying nothing about the immense prestige it would bestow on its owner. Sales immediately plummeted.

Hong Kong customers want to be told that lot of face, and they like to be reassured that the purchase will somehow put them at an advantage. One expensive brand of cognac is exclusively marketed in Hong Kong on story lines which show that the wily cognac drinker is always able to put one over on his hapless foreign business partner.

Most consumer products are sold on the basis of prestige. A brand of shirts promises executive success; a Japanese car offers the prospect of driving its purchaser to untold riches on the stock market; an apartment in a new block lets purchasers "tower" over their business rivals, and so on.

Hong Kong is often described as a many generalisations, this one contains an element of fact. No wonder that makers of luxury goods make a beeline for the colony. At Christmas time sales of designer watches, up-market brandies and other quality products are remarkable.

The point about these goods is that they

else can an average wannabe tycoon show that he has already made it? Only the seriously rich can afford to relax; they have nothing to prove. Some are even seen wearing Japanese watches. Those wanting to join their ranks have to be given face by showing they are in the big league in terms of

As for me, I'm thinking of applying to Honda to see if they would agree to the re-naming of my motorcycle as "Moderate Success", instead of "Superhawk". We all have to start somewhere.

Stephen Vines

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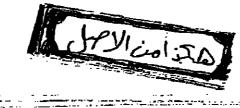
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Peaceful end near for hostage crisis

Perivian guerillas agree to leave esidence amid reports of US rad. Phil Davision reports

The Peruvis government and haps one or two busloads, with Tupac Ama: guerrillas holding 83 VIP hosges in the besieged Japanes ambassador's residence appared to be moving towards a pn-violent end to the

two-week-ld crisis yesterday. After measing a further 20 hostages a Saturday night, including vo foreign ambas-sadors and 10 Japanese businessmen the guerrillas said that theywere willing to leave the redence peacefully "throughdialogue".

They rade no mention of their erswhile key demand for the release of hundreds of jailed comrade, something President Alberto ujimori has said is out

In a tlephone call from Europe toReuters News Agency in Line Tupac Amaru spokesman Isac Velazco spoke yes-terday! "an intermediate solu-tion" such did not have to include se release of all Topac Amar prisoners.

Gurilla leader Nestor Cerpa's we is said to be among the prisoers, serving a life term on

terrosm charges.
Of the government side, chienegotiator Domingo Palermi Peru's Education Minister who met Cerpa in the besiged residence for the first timon Saturday, said there had bee "advances towards a so-Intin of this crisis".

le was commenting speci-fically on the release of the 20 hotages, which left the rebels wit 83 captives from the origin: 500-plus they took when thy stormed a diplomatic cockta party on 17 December.

The 20 or so guerrillas appear tche pruning their captives to a manageable number, pera view to leaving the building for Lima airport and on to a jungle hideout or perhaps exile in a country such as Cuba.

The guerrillas still hold those they consider their most valuable hostages - Peru's Foreign Minister, Francisco Tudela, senior police and military officers, Supreme Court judges, con-gressmen and Mr Fujimori's brother, Pedro.

The apparent softening of po sitions on both sides came an reports that US SWAT assault team experts were advising their Peruvian counterparts on how a hostage-freeing raid

Americans were also reported to be analysing conversations within the ambassador's residence, picked up by sensitive bugging devices outside. President Fujimori has taken

a tough line publicly but he is said by diplomats to be making concessions in the talks involving Mr Palermo.

The key mediator appears to be Peruvian Bishop Juan Luis Cipriani, from the city of Ayacucho, who has been visiting the besieged building every day since Christmas and appears to have defused the threat of a vi-

In a communiqué read by a released hostage on Saturday night, the gnerrillas criticised politicians and the media for billing their group as "a terrorist and general band, which is absolutely false".

"Looking at the situation in the jails and the drama that the families of our imprisoned comrades have lived through, we think it will be understood that our petition should be heeded,



Liberated: Ahmad Moldstar (right), the Malaysian ambassador to Peru, with his wife after his release by guerrillas on Saturday

and over time allow the lay down its arms under achievement of an integral, lasting peace," the

That reflected earlier comments by Cerpa that Topac Amaru wants to

lectuals say that the an amnesty deal and then Christmas hostage crisis integrate itself into Peruwas an accident waiting to happen. As in Mexico and vian politics as a populist party in support of the other Latin American countries, emphasis on

free market economic

policies has brought in-vestment but has widened the gap between rich and

This explained the rise of the Zapatista guerrillas to mobilise Peruvians in and the People's Revolu- anti-Tupac Amaru march-

years, the intellectuals sympathy with the guer-

tionary Army (EPR) in es brought only a few thousand out on to the streets, while the majority of Peru's poor express

Cabbage Patch dol 'eats' girls' haii

Greenville. South Carolin (AP) - In the third such incide since Christmas, a little gir hair got caught in the mouth a battery-powered doll th mimics eating. Three-year-o Carly Mize was left partly ba on Thursday when her hair w snagged by her doll and pulk out of her scalp.

The girl's mother, Tamn Mize of Easley, South Caro na, said: "When I picked Ca ly up, the doll was attached the back of her head."

The Cabbage Patch Snac Time Kid doll, which is supposed to "eat" plastic chips ar other fake food, has no on-o switch, and Mrs Mize said sl tried to prise the doll off Ca ly's head with no success.

"It kept rolling her hair insic the head," she said. "It pulle her hair from the root. "She completely hald all the wadown the back of her head."

In another incident, a doll be longing to 7-year-old Sara Stevens of Griffith, Indian: had to be taken apart when chewed its way up her hair t her scalp. Sarah's aunt, Kell Nagy, took 30 minutes to fre



Snack time: The hair-eating

significant shorts

Pyongyang apologises for spy' sub

in its first official apology ever to its southern rival, North Korea expressed "deep egret over sending a spy bmarine into South Korea n Sepember, which triggered Moscow and separatist entenie apology the Communist state also romised to prevent similar ncidens from recurring. The apologywas seen as a major concesson by North Korea, which regards the Seoul government as a US puppet.

Strikes spread in Egypt in SKorea

fight Preident Kim Youngsam's go'ernment, saying it threatend their jobs. About 373,000 vorkers have joined the strik at 700 work sites, union leders said. Car and shipbuiling industries were

Uniq: leaders vowed to

continue the protests until the Euro weaker end of January AP-Secul

Chechnya pull-out

The last Russian combat unit withdrew from Chechinya under a peace deal between deady manhunt...In a two- leaders, Itar-Tass news agency said. It quoted Russia's security chief Ivan Rybkin as saying that only logistics and transport units would remain in Chechnya pending a final pullout next month. Reuter -

Islamists held

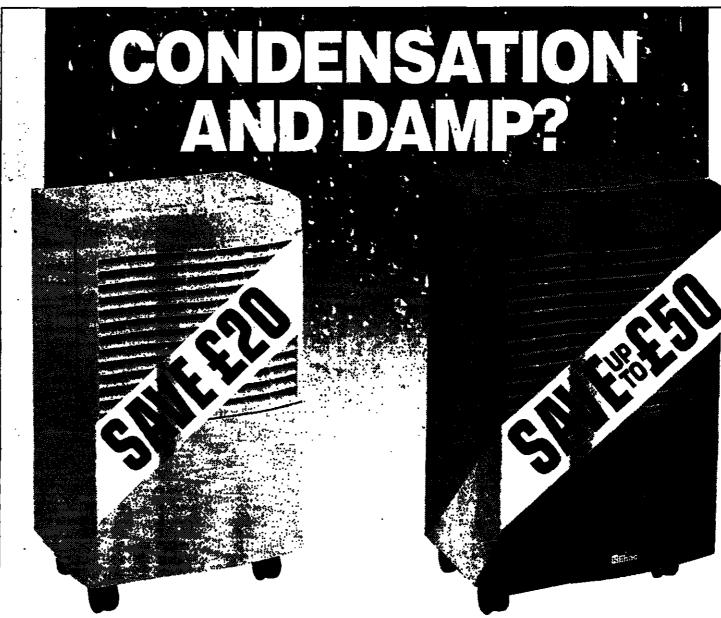
Egyptian police arrested 200 members of a new Islamic On the furth day of South
Korea's Irgest labour protest
ever, 20,00 workers vowed to Muslim Brotherhood. Al-Ahram newspaper said police made a "swift crackdown" on the "Kotbioun", named after Sayed Kotb, a Brotherhood leader executed in 1966 for attempting to overthrow then-President Gamal Abdel Nasser. AP - Cairo

than mark' claim denounced

The German Finance Minister Theo Waigel and Chancellery Minister Friedrich Bohl denounced an opposition leader who predicted the euro would be weaker than the German mark. Gerhard Schroeder, premier of Lower Saxony and a chancellor candidate for the opposition Social Democrats, said that "naturally the euro will be weaker than the mark".

Tung chooses top official

Hong Kong's leader-designate, Tung Chee-hwa, moved closer to forming his post-colonial administration at the weekend with the appointment of the territory's popular top civil servant Anson Chan. Mr Tung said that he would meet all principal officials of the existing government starting from today. Reuter - Hong



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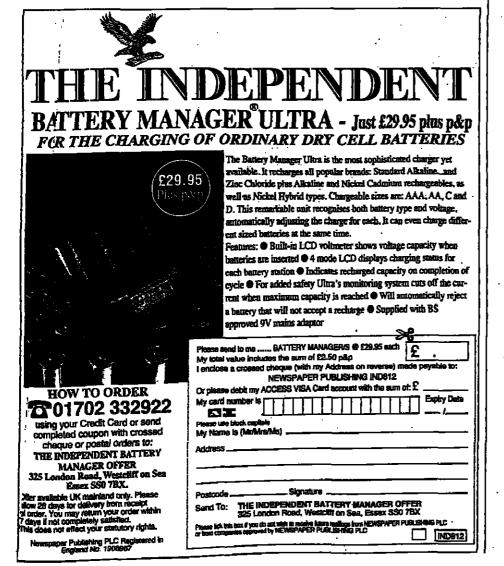


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Tibetan activists set off Lhasa bomb

:king

large bomb has exploded in cenal Lhasa, the most serious sabotage tempt this year in Tibet by anti-Chi-The blast occurred early on

hristmas Day, but details only nerged at the weekend. The device was placed at the ont of the Lhasa metropolitan disict government offices, in the midle of the city. Windows were nattered up to 100 yards away, and

damaged. According to the London-based Tibet Information Network (TIN), five people were injured, in-cluding two nightwatchmen at the government offices and shop-keepers living nearby.

The size of the explosion, at 1.30am, has made it impossible for the Chinese authorities to ignore or

A broadcast on the official Tibet Radio station described the blast as "yet another counter-revolutionary bombing staged by the Dalai clique

two hotels opposite the blast were in Lhasa city" and called it "an appalling act of terrorism".

The Tibetan exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, has always argued against the use of violence in Tibet's struggle against the Chinese, but this is the third bomb to go off in Lhasa this year, and by far the biggest. A government official told Reuters: "It was a huge explosion

that could be heard a long way off."
As 1996 draws to a close, Chinese repression and control in Tibet is at its most severe for years, with monks being expelled from monasteries or

arrested as part of a political "re-education" campaign. The harshness of the Chinese authorities' approach to Tibet was again illustrated at the weekend when news emerged of an long prison sentence imposed on a 30-year-old exiled Tibetan musicologist, a former Fulbright scholar in the US, who was arrested while making an unauthorised film about folk

music and dance in Tibet. Ngawang Choephei, who left Tibet when he was a child, was arrested in September 1995 about two months after arriving in Tibet. He has

legedly spying. China also repeatedly accused "a certain foreign country"
- clearly meaning the United States of funding him and providing equipment in return for information.

This is the longest sentence passed for a political offence other than murder since 1989, when two monks were jailed for 19 years. An official radio broadcast said that Ngawang Choephel entered

Tibet "to carry out his activities un-

der the pretext of collecting infor-

mation on folk songs and dances in

Tibet ... in an attempt to provide the information gathered to the Dalai clique's government-in-exile and to an organisation of a certain foreign

It said that he had confessed to the crimes, but gave no details. In contrast, Westerners who travelled with the musicologist in Tibet said he was genianely involved in filming dance and music, and anxious to avoid anything political, said TIN.

The length of the sentence may be meant as a warning to other Tibetan exiles who visit Tibet.

If a Tibetan exile eters Tibet un der Chinese immiglion procedures he does so as a Ginese citizen and thus loses any prection from his country of resider

Ngawang Choephchad Indian travel documents but ses not have

foreign passport. In Washington the Site Department spokesman, Johnbinger, said the US was "quite conceped" about the sentence. Ngawan Choephel studied ethnomusicolcy at Middlebury College, Vermonduring the period 1992-3.

Police

block

Belgrade

protests

Belgrade -- Serbian sechity police blocked a march by 0,000 people in Belgrade yest day in the 42nd day running f prodemocracy demonstratios. The protest column was interepted after it poured into the Spbian capital's main pedestria|mall following fiery speeches blead-ers of the Zajedno (Togher) opposition coalition in Roub

Riot police were enforing ban on street marches impsed by the ruling Socialist arty (SPS) after a mêlée on Chistmas Eve between Zajednohotesters and government lovast: bused into Belgrade to inthidate the opposition. A Zaidno supporter was reportelly trampled to death as crows tried to fiee a police charge Police created two cordons box in demonstrators vesterdy Protesters reacted, as before & walking in circles as if they we imprisoned. They also should "murderers" and "dogs" at p lice. A carnival atmosphere s in, with some demonstrator joining hands in Serbian fol dances. No violence va

Mark Heinrich

lic Square.

reported.

Up to a quarter of a millo people have demonstrated in Belgrade and other Serban towns daily in a campaign toreverse the SPS's annulment of municipal elections won by he Zajedno bloc on 17 November. Zajedno, backed later by findings of a special Organia-tion for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission. accused the SPS of vote rigging and wants its victorie reinstated in 14 cities including Fel-

grade. Other municipalities were swept by the SS.

Capturing nature's pulse in the Pacific heart of a mangrove forest



Chateau sale sows grapes of wrath

Mary Dejevsky

With the season of good cheer in France well underway, some very unseasonal writs are flying around concerning the future of Chateau d'Yquem, a Sauternes lauded by connoisseurs as one of the consistently finest dessert wines made.

This quintessentially French quarrel was prompted by the announcement last month that the chateau and its vinevards were to be sold to the international luxury goods concern. Louis Moet Hennessy (LVMH). When the first writ was issued on Christmas Eve from one brother to another the affair started to assume the dimensions of a family feud that could last for generations.

The two sides then started to air their passionate arguments for public delectation, and it became clear that the new year could offer a graphic case study. in what happens when exclusive and traditional French compames meet modern international commerce. Despite stiff reorguard resistance from many of the French families concerned, this is a clash that will only become more frequent.

It was on 28 Newember that the public first heard the news: Chateau d'Yquem, owned by the aristocratic Lur-Saluces family since 1785 and partowned by them for the previous 200 years, had been sold to the giant LVMH group. The reputed price paid by LVMH for the controlling stake was 500m French francs (£59m).

Reaction to the sale was mixed: from a resigned "that's the only way to survive in this day and age" to profound regret and even anger that so vital a part of France had been betraved to foreigners. Almost immediately, how-

ever, the sale was contested from inside the family. The older brother, Marquis Éugène de Lur-Saluces, who as well as heading the company is said to have masterminded the sale. was challenged by his younger brother, the Count Alexandre de Lur-Saluces, who has managed the chateau for the past 28

While acknowledging that he was a minority shareholder, Count Alexandre said that a clause written into the company's statute when he became manager prohibited any change proval - and he did not approve. This is the sense of the writ he

issued last week. The marquis insisted that the family had no choice but sell if Chateau d'Yquem was to survive. He claimed that a majority of the family, accounting for 90 per cent of its shares,

were on his side. The count argued that for the chateau to be controlled by an outside, international interest. was tantamount to betraying the family spirit and would jeopardisc standards. For good mea-sure, he accused his brother of

Neither the traditional character nor the standards of Chateau d'Yquem are in doubt. The chateau is a classic fortified farm in the regional style, surrounded by 103 hectares of vineyards in the heart of the Sauternes, south

of Bordeaux. All the grapes are selected and hand picked only by the most experienced and specialised pickers. It is said that one vine produces only one glass of Chateau d'Yquem. In some years, no vintage is produced because quality is judged too low. The latest vintage to be re-leased, the 1990, is sold at more than FSOO a bottle.

Former murder capital of US rocked by the lowest killing count in 20 years

New York - Branded for years as the crime capital of the world, New York City was armed this weekend with figures to show that things have changed. It recorded fewer murders in 1996 than in any year since 1968; the decline in the number of random murders by

As of Saturday, the tally of murders in the city stood at 972 for the year, less than half the record total of 2,245 to be the least murderous year in New

strangers, meanwhile, was especially

nurders committed in 1990; 1996 is set York City for almost two decades. The end-of-year figures, released by

the New York City Police Commis-sioner, Howard Safir, are especially striking, however, in highlighting the drop in random acts of murder.

In 1996, 19 per cent of murder victims in the city were killed by strangers, compared to 37 per cent in 1993. Fourfifths of the murders, therefore, were committed by people who were acquainted with their victims.

"The city is now safer in that, one. you are less likely to be murdered, and two, you are less likely to be attacked

David Usborne on the Big Apple's sudden rash of lawfulness by a stranger," Mr Safir said. "It's the kind of thing that people always talk about, that if you go to New York somebody's going to come out of an

alley and shoot you."

There was evidence also of a drop in the number of guns on New York's streets. Arrests for illegal possession of firearms were down by 20 per cent last year. Moreover, there were 21 per cent fewer shootings in the city and 20 fewer victims of shootings, the police

The statistics are good news for the city's tourist industry. They are also a boost to the Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, who, in spite of being a Republican in a heavily Democrat city, is reckoned to have an easy path to reelection next year largely because of the sudden drop in the city's crime

The figures will also give more fuel to the debate about where credit is due for the reversal of New York's crime problem. Although crime has been

dropping all over the Unite States, especially in large cities, the decline in New York has been especially marked and exceeds the national verage.

Contributing factors are kely to include the waning of the crack-cocaine epidemic, an impriving city economy and national effols to make guns less easily available.

Mr Safir, however, attribued the latest statistics to new policin strategies in New York, in particula a crack-down on quality-of-life crims like subway fare-dodging and unating in public, that have also dipouraged

Tension high as Hebron deal looms

The black of the slogans, spray painted in crude Arabic by Jewish settlers on the Cordoba Arab girls' school, is still legi-ble through the Palestinian whitewash "Arabs out!" reads one. "Death to the Arabs!" another. "Baruch Goldstein may he blot out your name!" a

Goldstein, an American-born settler, was beaten to death by angry worshippers nearly three years ago after massacring 29 Muslims at prayer in what the Arabs revere as the Ibrahim Mosque and the Jews as the tomb of their Patriarchs.

On the brink of an Israeli redeployment in Hebron, the last West Bank city under occupation, he remains a symbol for both communities - a heroic martyr to many of the 450 settiers, the ultimate oppressor to the 150,000 Palestinians. Under an agreement expected to be sealed this week. Israel will hand over 85 per cent

doba school, which draws its 205 pupils from all over the city, will remain within the Jewish enclave, under Israeli military rule, as will 15,000 Palestinian

A red, white, black and green Palestinian flag flies defiantly from the window of the headmistress's office on a rocky hillside overlooking Beit Hadassah, the settler stronghold five minutes' walk from the disputed burial site of Abraham, the common ancestor of Arab and Jew. The headmistress, Firyal Abu Haykal, is emphatic: her school will not move.

"This school," she says, "belongs to the Palestinian Authority. It will continue to belong to the Palestinian Authority. The settlers curse our children, they beat them, they throw stones at them. But we have no choice but to stay." But will the parents contin-

ue sending their daughters? "The authority has barred our pupils from transferring to other schools on the Palestinian side of town." Mrs Abu of Hebron to Yasser Arafat's Haykal said. "They won't be accepted. I brought three of my Palestinian Authority. The Cor-



yesterday after firebombs were thrown at Israeli troops

talked to say they will make the same sacrifice.

Like many of the Palestinians who are standing their ground among the settlers. Mrs Abu 30 years. Why not wait anoth-Haykal does not see, perhaps er five?" Below the Cordoba

own children here, aged seven. does not want to see, 13 and 14. All the parents I've redeployment as the last word. "I believe the final goal of the Oslo agreement is to end the occupation. Eventually, it will come to an end. We've waited

school, Arab labourers are

building an extra storey on a settler reshiva seminary. In a nearby coffee shop. Yusuf Sharabati, a 70-year-old in a black and white chequered kefyelt, says he is angry with them. but can't bring himself to

interfere. "They have o live." he admitted, "and we ave no work for them".

In the fruit and veetable market between the restly and the mosque, Arab trades are worried that they wil soon have no customers. "Busiess is very bad already." said Muhammad Rajabi. "Pople are afraid to come to thijarca because of the police and the settlers. It will be worse after the redeployment. We shall have to

Up to 2,000 sympathsers came to reinforce the Heron settlers over the Sabbathlbut most of them had left yeste lay. The city was frozen in unertainty. Arab youths lobbel a couple of ineffective perol

bombs at Israeli checkpoids The Jews, like the Arabs tre still unconvinced that anything is going to change. "There ih going to be a withdrawal," sid Moshe Ben-Zimra, a setter

leader.

Last night, the Israeli Defence Minister. Yitzhk Mordechai, met Mr Arafatin Gaza in an attempt to resole

still flowed below, oily, like paint. thought Mr Casaubon; no blue



EPENDENE - MONDAY 30 DECEMBER 1996

Annus Horribilis, Annus Mirabilis

Alan Yentob was the visible face of BBC moguldom. Then John Birt flicked the switch. By Thomas Sutcliffe

this newspaper. The occasion was the imminent arrival of the Christmas schedules, a scheduler's potential Waterloo, when a whole year of arcane manoeuvring and skirmishes by the television generals comes down to a single set-piece battle.

Traditionally the BBC has played the part of Wellington in these encounters, enjoying at this one time of the year an advantage which it often loses for the rest. Which may be why Yentob spoke of the occasion with particular relish. "It's one of the few occasions of the year", he said, "when you could be getting people just sitting down watching your schedule quite consistently throughout the evening."

But it is also worth noting that the possessive "your" refers not just to the BBC but to the controller himself, uniquely possessed of a power to commission and arrange the programmes. For senior tele-vision executives, scheduling is perhaps the most prized skill of all – an often intuitive mystery which marks out the true elect. And at the end of this year, Alan Yentob, a high priest of the arcana, no longer has a schedule to call his own. Because what this year brought him was a paradoxical and unenviable gift: a promotion that many people saw as a demotion.

It took him some time to digest his change of status from controller of BBC1, able to commission programmes and spend the money, to the newly-created eventually fall to him.

In the event he was informed only three days before the official announcement (vivid proof, incidentally, that John Birt's admiration for new management techniques remains only theoretical in some

Yentob's new job may be daunting, but when John Birt says it is of crucial impor-tance to the BBC he isn't just talking a tance to the BBC he isn't just talking a soothing fiction. If the corporation is to survive as one of the world's great production greatest proportion of the BBC's output houses rather than just a superior publisher-distributor, then much of that future depends on what Alan Yentob does next. He will have to ensure that the BBC is in a position to generate intellectual property

little over a year ago, Alan Yentob, then controller of BBC1, gave an interview to that it can exploit in an explosion of new technical outlets. In some respects it would be hard to think of a more demanding post

His difficulty, though, was that it didn't look like that from the outside. "I want to be good, and I want to be happy," Yentob wrote during one of the BBC's recent staff training seminars (holy days of obligation for the management faithful) and it occurred to many that he could have one or the other in his new job, but he was unlikely to get both. The received opinion ran something as follows: loyal and faith-ful servant confounds his critics (who had said he was too intellectual for the BBC's popular channel) by narrowing the ratings gap between the BBC and ITV.

Without abandoning the traditional values of the Corporation (indeed by selfconsciously restoring some of them) he had taken the battle to the enemy. ITV, in creative trouble anyway, had to absorb the shock of being beaten for overall share for the first time in years. And as a reward for these services he found himself excluded from a job he loved; and, some argued, sidelined from the succession too.

this last matter, the BBC Kremlinologists are still divided. Some, arguing that the power to com-mission is the fundamental weapon in an executive's hands, suggest that the move to production makes it more difficult for Yentob to ascend to the directorgeneralship. Others, more realistically, note that the task, if successfully achieved,

more direct route to the top That hardly means things will be easy. As well as the Herculean task of putting BBC Production in order (a job that will require painful personnel decisions and the friction of organisational change), Yentob ill have to reassert his own editorial clout (the fact that the perceptions may be wrong does not necessarily diminish the comes from its in-house production talent (though, like other broadcasters, the BBC has a statutory obligation to take 25 per cent of its material from independent production companies). This gives Yentob a



Photograph: Nick Turpin

strategy for the entire Corporation.

But there are other factors. The days that Jane Root (one of the founders of the very successful independent production company Wall to Wall) is shortly to be appointed as head of independent commissions, reporting directly to Michael Jackson and Mark Thompson, must give Yentob pause for thought. That figure of 25 per cent, after all, is a minimum, not a ceiling. In some areas, such as entertainment, around 42 per cent of programming is already coming from independent companies. If that figure was to be replicated elsewhere, the influence of BBC Production - and of the man who runs it - would unquestionably be diminished.

the figure, to whom some newspapers have alress diameted the unofficial title of The Most Powerful Man in Television, has been a friend of Yentob's for some time, but not for as long as Root, with whom Jackson worked on influential pro-grammes such as Channel 4's The Media Show. Her arrival sends a clear message that the BBC wants to improve its relationship with the independent sector, not mercly meet its legal obligations. Those interested in the ebb and flow of power will be watching carefully to see in which direction certain unmoored independent producers begin to drift - will Peter Bazalgette, for example, the inventor of some of the BBC's most successful daytime pro-

gramming, offer new programmes through Street. London BBC Productions of through Jane Roofs department? If there is a cultivated rivalry here - one

intended to make BBC Production iii Ioi external competition by bringing in a sparring partner through the front door - then Yentob will make a formidable local champion, as he has large reserves of staff respect to trade on, plus a track record of innovation. He is also genuinely dedicated to the idea of the BBC as a public-service broadcaster, a vocational passion he will need to carry him through the tricky months ahead.

Not the least of his tasks now, though, is to convince all his colleagues of what he already believes - that his sudden change of title was a ladder and not a snake.

Tomorrow: Irvine Welsh's annus mirabilis

Sales guide

FASHION STARTING TODAY Shirin Cashmere for three weeks, at 11 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (0171-581 1936). Cerruti 1881 Menswear at 26 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 2278)

STARTED YESTERDAY

Austin Reed at branches nationwide. Betty Jackson into mid-January, at 311 Brompton Road, London SW3. Biba for 4-5 weeks, at 15 Shorts Gardens, London WC2 (0171-240 6694). Burton for 4 weeks, at West 1 Shopping Centre, 379 Oxford Street, London W1, and at all stores nationwide (0321 287866). Cashmere Studio at 10 Sloane Street. London SW1 (0171-245 9111). Ceruti 1881 wamenswear until 31 Dec. at 106 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-495 5880), Ciro pearls until 31 Jan, at 61a Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-889 5584). Designworks for 3 weeks, at 19 Avery Row, London WI.

DKNY Bond Street, London W1. Dorothy Perkins at West 1 Store, 379 Oxford Street, London W1, and branches

Emporio Armani at 191 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-823 S818) and stores across London, Sales in Manchester and Glasgow start tomorrow.

Etam Nationwide.

Giorgio Armani at 37 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 6232).

Hobbs at branches nationwide.
Ken Lane until 31 Jan, at 30 Burlington
Arcade, London SW3 (0171-499 136) and
58 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (0171-584 1985).
Monsoon at 23 The Market, London WC2. and stores nationwide.

Oasis until end of January, at 292 Regent Street, London WI and branches nationwide. Red or Dead at all London stores. The Scotch House for 2-3 weeks, at 2 Brompton Road, London SW1 and stores across London. Simpsons until 25 Jan at Piccadilly, London.

Ghost, Kate Jones, Claudia Sebire, Blazer (Moss Bros Group) ,Racing Green, Ronit Zijkha

HOMES AND INTERIORS Maples at stores nationwide.

Ikea at 2 Drury Way, North Circular Road, London NW10 (0181-208 5000) and branches in Crowdon, Birmingham, Gateshead, Leeds and Warrington.

DEPARTMENT STORES Fortnum and Mason at 181 Piecadilly, London W1 (0171-734 8040) Reductions of up to 50 per cent on women's, men's and children's clothing. Women's fashion includes designer collections such as Jean Muir, Jasper Conran, MaxMara, Mani and YSL. Among hargains in menswear are suits reduced from £495 to £295, Loro Piana doeskin wool overcoats, reduced from £495 to £295.

STARTED YESTERDAY Debenhams (0171-408 4444). Fenwick for 3 weeks, at 63 New Bond Street, London W1, and at stores in Brent Cross, at Ricemans of Canterbury, Fenwick of Newcastle, Tunbridge Wells, Windsor, York and Leicester. Harvey Nichols at Knightsbridge. London SWI and in Leeds.

Liberty at Regent Street, London W1. Selfridges for about a month, at Oxford Street London WI. British Home Stores nationwide

STARTED YESTERDAY Jones Bootmakers at branches across London. Pied à Terre At 31 Old Bond Street, London WI and all branches in London, Manchester, Glasgow, Brighton, Brent Cross and Lakeside Shopping Centre (details 0171-499 9204). ALREADY ON

HOMES & INTERIORS STARTED YESTERDAY Heal's until 19 Jan, at 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666) and stores in London and Guildford. The Pier Stores around the country including King's Road, London SW3. Royal Worcester Spode 126 Regent St, London W1.

PRIDE & PREJUDICE by Tracey Austen

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a singles player in possession of a good forehand must be in want of a doubles partner.

"My dear Mr Bennet," said his lady to him one day, "have you heard that there are to be new balls at Netherfield? What a fine thing for our girls!"
"Lizzie, my dear," said Mr Bennet to

his favourite daughter, "it appears your mother wants you to have a set with Mr Oh but father," replied Lizzie, "Jane

is so much more accomplished at the net than I and her ground strokes would do us all credit, far better than mine ever could. Might she not go in my place?" "As long as one of you will play it

matters not which. But we do not want a walkover so let us take the brougham," sighed Mr Bennet.

A C Webster, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs

HEART OF DARKNESS by Terence Conran

Any wallpaper - even flocked - would have been welcome. This was clearly not the Fulham Road, although the charcuterie was interesting.

Stephen Smithson, Leeds

MIDDLEMARCH

Mr Casaubon was lost. He paused on the could not think clearly; could not think at

He walked to the railing. The Thames À LA RECHERCHE DU TEMPS PERDU all, could not ... Disconnected timbers were borne on its sluggish surface. But no fish swam there, kingfishers flashed along the level water. Too-wit, too-woo, said his lips. Too-wit,

But he had grown too old for wooing; too stiff in the knees, too ponderous of manner. How must others perceive him, with his bald head and tight waistcoat?

He turned back to the road. Carriages swarmed through ruts, and men rushed with umbrellas. So many men, moving frantically and without purpose, shadowy in the rain.

"Regardez," he said to himself. "Le monde, l'abîme. Durham, Dhammpadda nada, niente, nicht."

G Strugnell, Coulsdon, Surrey

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (OR BATH) by Emma Thompson

We were just outside Bath, on the edge of the Cotswolds, when the tea took hold. "I do so apologise for the inconvenience, ma'am, but I simply must

ask the carriage driver to stop."
I looked at Mr Charles Winthrop. His face had a strange, contorted expression. A face, I might add, that normally was not without certain pleasing aspects.
"But why? Do you wish to be ill?" I

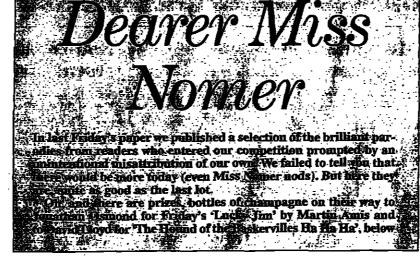
asked. His eyes were crossed. His legs. also, were in such a fashion.
"No, ma'am," he replied. His eyes rolled about in a not agreeable manner. He crossed and uncrossed his legs with

hardly a pause between.

"Mr Winthrop, what can be the matter?" "Quite simply, Mrs Branagh," he said, "I must water the begonias"."
I felt light-headed. My voice faltered as I spoke, "Why didn't you say so? I

thought you were needing the toilet!" Norman Ferguson, Glasgow

At Aunt Amiot's I lie awake listening for Monsieur Swann's bell, knowing that I must have Mummy's goodnight kiss as her breasts cushion me to sleep into that magic lantern land where chauffeurs in



rubber uniforms become my nuns of speed sweeping me through salons and cathedrals to dark places where bloodstained butchers push hatpins into caged rats while their naked delivery-boys

play with thick sausage. Is this normal? My dear Marcel, this is perfectly normal for a growing Jewish boy. I'm just a mite concerned about your slight insomnia. Combray can be so bracing. Avoid too many madeleine cakes at supper. Try instead lime tea. Meanwhile why not a little seaside air? Next time Papa is deep into his naughty cordon sanitaire take Mummy to Galeries Lafayette for a new bra (Oedipus range up to 44DD) and then a room for two at the Grand Hotel Cabourg, Sleep tight.

> Roger Betteridge, Shardlow, Derbyshire

THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT by Timothy Leary

The Owl and the Pussycat dropped a tab And sat back to see what they'd see The Book of the Dead had been well read

For when they were out of their tree The Owl looked down at his feet on the ground

O luminous Pussy, O Pussy you glow, What a luminous Pussy you are, You are, You are! What a luminous Pussy you are!" Pussy said to the Owl "Oh Man, how you how!!

And sang to a small sitar,

We should form a band, and travel the But what shall we do for a bass? So they tripped down the street, they were hoping to meet A bassist who knew all his chords

Your voice, it has power and grace

And there on a stage, a Piggy Wig played And the notes they came straight from the Lord The Lord. The Lord

And the notes they came straight from the Lord "Say Pig, fancy joining this band we are

Said the Piggy, "Sure man, count me in!" So they moved to LA and recorded next

With Bowie, Beefheart and McGuinn Their debut LP - The Pig, Puss and Me It went triple gold in a week And "Paw/Trotter/Wing" together still

Lysergically fuelled, so to speak To speak Lysergically fuelled, so to speak.

Alan Weston, London E18

THE DESERTED VILLAGE by Sir James Goldsmith

Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey, Where Brussels rules and Europhobes Federalists may flourish or may fade

A breath can make them, as a breath has But we bold Sceptics, our great nation's Have high ideals that may not be denied.

A time there was, ere griefs o'er whelmed our land, When I could be content with head in

For me light labour spread her

And piled me up a billion, maybe more. But then I yearn'd to grasp Britannia's And high me home from indolence

abroad. No more I cried "Nunc est bibendum" But "let my people have a referendum". Eurolackeys lashed with words unkind And the loud laugh that speaks the

But still they gazed, and still the wonder That I should have such wealth but not a ciue.

vacant mind.

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES HA HA HA by Sir Arthur Roddy Doyle

I'm a doctor. I was in the house with Holmes. He turned and looked at me. His nose sloped down in a curve. It was like one of the little hills on the pitch

and putt in Barrytown. I went there once with my da. It was dead boring.

"There's this dog." "Oh yeah?" "Big bastard." "How d'ya know?"

Church's Ravel

"Don't be a bloody egit Watson. Your Baskerville man told me." "Will we go and see him?"
"We will." He had a big house this Sir Baskerville. Stuck in the middle of

nowhere. We went on the train. There

got stuck in the quicksand. It was all sticky and smelt like old farts. Holmes

was a lot of chasing about and this feller

and me killed the dog and we went home. I never liked dogs much. 'How d'ya do that Ĥolmes?" "Dead easy, Watson."

David Lloyd, Bristol

KARAOKE by Beatrix Potter

In which an Edwardian authoress, B.P. known for her anthropomorphic animal tales but struck with writer's block, begins to see and hear her own characters and scenes in reality.

The scene plays in a London restaurant. BP is discussing with her agent a theatrical adaptation of a tale of a dysfunctional mole.

Agent: Listen, the director's not happy with the ending, it's a bit preachy, not enough sex ... are you listening?

B P is staring at the adjacent table, where a squirrel, a rabbit and a mouse

are taking tea. Squirrel (sternly adjusting its spectacles): Well, mouse, I hope you're ashamed of yourself, you naughty little Geoffrey Langley, Bristol fellow. Fancy stealing a whole ...

BP (mouthing the words, astonished): ... piece of Cheddar Agent: Are you feeling all right? BP: It's speaking my lines.

Agent: Who, the squirrel or the mouse?

Jon Hughes, Cheadle, Cheshire

The wrong tunes for Redditch's young voters

ohn Major is "quite nice, a decent is good economic news. The Prime bloke", according to a young man Minister's new year's message today is on our panel of first-time voters in Redditch. He is not the only one who : into it at any point, even start backthinks so. This perception of the Prime Minister is widely shared. It also happens to be remarkably imperceptive. John Major is a tough political fighter, a calculating partisan; he has some political achievements to his record, but, like most other politicians at one time or another, he has placed his own leadership and the short-run advantage of party before the common interest.

But let that pass; Brian Mawhinney may think himself entitled to a new year's jig at this widespread sense that John Major is a good bloke, coupled as it is with an almost equally widespread view of the Labour leader as a man with a plastic smile. Cue yet more asinine attacks on the man's physical appearance.

The Teries currently have three songs to sing. Number one is that being hummed by the youth of Redditch, "honest John". The man in shirtsleeves beguiled the punters in 1992, so why not again? (He didn't: all the evidence says that the outcome of the election was decided well in advance of the contest itself and owed nothing to Mr Major's soapbox.) Readers and viewers should stand ready for a deluge of man-m-saloon-bar/sub-Stanley Baldwin images and rhetoric.

The other Tory song in a Major key

like Philip Glass's music, you can drop wards, and it sounds pretty much like the same chord: things are looking up. According to the Nationwide, house prices will have risen by 15 per cent in the two years ending next winter. This, the Deputy Prime Minister assures us, is the kind of inflation that is good for us. But it is also apparent that there is no reliable relationship between

changes in the economic indicators and. voting intentions. We have had enough economic recovery by now to see that better prospects for jobs and incomes are not an inducement to commit to voting Tory. Memories of Tory economic incompetence are still strong, and besides, the experience of relative prosperity seems to have lessened the Young people - they undoubtedly risk factor in voting for Labour. Young people - they undoubtedly share this view with their elders - do

Mr Mawhinney ought not to dance before he has looked in more depth at what our panel of young people is say-ing. Young people of the West Midlands may have a spice-girlish per-spective on political leadership, but they are also making two other judge-ments. One is that Labour is a party of ideas. Youth may be cynical about Labour's capacity to "do things" in office but the erstwhile party of the left still seems to these young people to be the carrier of hope for change. The second should worry Tory strategists more.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON EM 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

not see Labour as a threat.

Which brings us on to the Tories' third song: or rather, warning siren. It is a warning that voting Labour is a 'gamble", a risk to your own purse and pocket. But Labour's great achievement of the past year must be the way it has made itself financially safe for power. It has neutralised the charge that it cannot be trusted with manage-

ment of the public money.

Nevertheless, Labour must still guard its flanks. This week the Cabinet's records for 1966 are opened. The sea-

men's strike that year will be recollected, along with the activist past of such Labour notables as Prescott. Undue proximity to old-style unionism still holds an electoral danger for Labour. While John Monks of the Trades Union Congress strives to redefine a 21st-century relationship between organised labour and the state, some of his colleagues seem to hanker for the past. The corporatism that John Edmonds of the GMB wants is unpalatable to most people, including union members.

But making Labour safe is not the same as making Labour attractive. Too much attention can (and will be) paid

to Tony Blair's personality. Indifferent or low ratings in the personality stakes can be lived with. At her apogee, Margaret Thatcher enjoyed some grim figures for public appreciation of her bearing, voice and persona: she did not win because of her teeth. But Mr Blair's deficit serves to expose Labour's electoral problem. The Tories are dis-united, for all the strips of veneer applied by honest John and Michael Heseltine; their economic record (taxes and ejection from the Exchange Rate Mechanism) will dog them till polling day. But, perceiving that, electors will not automatically make it Mr Blair's day. They need a positive reason to vote Labour, and they are not sure they

This gap has been noticeable for some months now. It is not about some shopping list of policies - especially one carefully pruned to excise any commitments to spend more. It is more Labour's lack of a theme, along the lines of President Bill Clinton's successful bid to identify himself with what Americans call "soccer moms" - working women with children. Labour has songs with immense popular appeal, about the common condition of society, about order, equity and the effectiveness of social institutions, especially schools. What the people want are more riffs aphorisms like Tony Blair's own brilliant coinage about crime and its causes.

Labour has its causes. If it is going

to do anything in power it must address educational under-attainment by too many of the pupils enrolled in state schools, behaviour in the public space, justice and security at work - which is not at all the same as trying to revive union membership. When it comes to voting, those young people in Redditch are not really going to decide their vote according to their present response to Tony Blair's smile, or his hairdo, nor on Inha Maiora in any similar trachier. John Major's impressively unshirt-sleeved forearms. They are going to vote for the party that connects their own concerns and ambitions directly to its policy and programmes.

phink & in mid

Shock horror: children still read

The first thing to say about any research on children's reading habits - like that today from Surrey University - is that children still have them. That horror emerged as the most popular category for younger teenagers reading should offend no one. (Advocates of Victorian values especially should consult the bestseller lists in Wilkie Collins's day.) What matters is that imagination is still fed from the printed page - despite television, despite computers and despite the real and alleged inadequacies of the schools.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Put children at centre of adoption law

Sir: John Major is a caring family man and it has to be assumed that his determination to introduce a radical reform of the adoption system ("Adoption law to curb political correctness", 28
December) is not a cynical piece of electioneering but rather has its origins in a briefing by proponents of "privatised" adoption in the United States.

Unfortunately the Prime Minister may be unaware of the complex and sensitive issues which need to be taken into account.

Those professionals engaged in child care, whether social workers, foster parents or lawyers, agree that all children need the security of a stable family life if they are to thrive. Everyone is horrified by the numbers of older children who live in residential homes before leaving care without that stability. The new fashionable solution is

to decree that all children who are taken into care shall be adopted if they are not returned home within. say, a year or 18 months. Because fewer adoptive placements than foster placements break down argued that this will provide greater security. Inefficiency by local authorities in finding adoptive homes will be overcome by the use

of private agencies.
This approach overlooks a number of important matters. It is not in the interests of all children in care to be legally, and in some cases psychologically, separated from their families. Not all children come into care because they have been rescued from abusive and uncaring parents. Many have loving families who are unable to look after them because of ill health or because of the demands of siblings. They may need to live apart from them but still remain part of the

While adoptive homes may have a lower rate of failure, it is important to compare like with like. A toddler or young child is less likely to be disturbed than an older child, and the greater the disturbance the more pressure is placed on the new family. More substitute families are needed but private agencies may not be the solution to finding them. Local authorities have been using private

agencies for two decades. This government has already given these problems detailed consideration for the last seven years. A review of adoption law was initiated in 1989, and a White Paper, "Adoption: The Future", was published in 1993. A Bill was published at the beginning of this year which places the interests of the individual child at the centre of all decisions which have to be made. Its measures have wide

support.
If the Prime Minister genuinely wishes to help children in care - and I believe he does - he should ensure that time is made available now for legislation or commit his future government to introduce the Bill in the first session after the election. JOHN MITCHELL Family Law Chambers London EC4

Sir: There are indeed 55,000 children in local authority care. However, over 40,000 of these children are already placed in substitute families with varying levels of support from local authorities. The remaining 15,000 are in residential care and 90 per cent of these are adolescents.

The vast majority of these young



people are in residential care because attempts to place them in substitute families have failed - so great has been the initial damage that they have suffered at the hands of their original families.

To your great credit, you have been highlighting the efforts being made to track down the victims of abuse in residential care in the Seventies and Eighties, but no one seems to be prepared to ask why it happened and continues to happen A glance at Sir William Utting's 1991 report "Children in Public" Care" provides the answer. He

reviewed residential staff's abilities and called them "deplorable". In the two children's homes I worked in this summer, only *one* of the 19 staff had a qualification.

The system of promotion is based entirely on time-serving.

Add to this "privatised care" and
the simple fact that within the new dispensation these unqualified people can set up their own children's homes, and you have a situation which in any other field of social policy would be regarded as

So why do we tolerate it? Well, firstly the "clients" are children who have no voice. Secondly - money. To recruit and train staff for this difficult and

demanding work so that at least 50 per cent have reached degree level would cost millions, money that no government is prepared to spend.

Yet curiously we are prepared to pick up the social cost once these young people leave care; 15,000 of our prison population have been in care, exactly the same number currently languishing there. NIGELEVANS. School of Social Work, Kingston University

Patten to blame for Peking move

Sir: What is truly "stomachturning", to use Governor Chris Patten's phrase, is the ease with which he can use the press to pillory Peking and exonerate himself for the replacement next July of the sitting Hong Kong Legislative Council by an appointed interim chamber ("Patten lashes sick plan for Hong Kong", 21 December). The Chinese authorities' description of their action as "necessary, reasonable and justified" is apt.

It is necessary because, consequent on Mr Patten's actions the constituency basis on which the council was elected in 1995 did not conform with the constitution Peking, with Britain's co-operation, had drawn up for Hong Kong when it reverts to China. China insistently warned before the Patten "reforms" were implemented that they meant the sitting council would have to be stood down at midnight on 30 June 1997 - an entirely unwelcome step

imposed on Peking by Mr Patten, It is reasonable because the government of post-transition Hong Kong will need a legislature and because instant elections would overload a new administration. Therefore a

nominated body is needed to serve until a new council can be elected in 1998 on the constituency basis agreed between Britain and China before Mr Patten's appointment. It is justified because the reforms

Mr Patten introduced in 1993 were a gerrymander, unilaterally changing the agreed constituency basis for the 1995 elections so as to strengthen the electoral chances of the anti-Peking party. Peking had agreed to the steady, progressive democratisation of the Hong Kong polity, but Mr Patten, defying China's objections, fast-forwarded that process - and what Peking is now doing is switching to "rewind". **NEVILLÉ MAXWELL**

Keep shops shut

Sir: Your editorial ("Let the tills ring out glad tidings", 24 December) needs to be challenged 24-hour opening by supermarkets should not be welcomed.
You clearly have little idea of labour relations in the retail sector

when you state: "Provided staff are paid fairly ... " It is not only pay -many retail workers are given little choice about working these unsocial hours, managements are autocratic and the workforce is

generally poorly organised.

I accept that long opening hours are convenient, but I would find it convenient if banks, council and government offices and leisure centres were open 24 hours. I do not clamour for this, because the workers in these areas deserve some time with their families. Enough is enough. It's time to

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

return to decency and common NEIL HADDY Chesterfield, Derbyshire

| Non-smokers resent insults

Sir: Why must smokers like Jo Brand (21 December), who seem to be perfectly civilised in other respects, seek to justify the nuisance their addiction causes to the non-smoking majority by insulting us?

Are we really "po-faced" or, as recently suggested elsewhere, "health Nazis", simply because we dislike being forced to breath foulsmelling, carcinogenic smoke and to have our clothes and hair made to stink of it?

I suspect that many people who enjoy smoking simply do not understand how unpleasant it is for those of us who do not. Personally, I would as soon spend an evening in a garage full of diesel fumes.

I wish Jo and her fellow smokers joy of their habit. All I ask is that they have the basic courtesy to respect my preference not to share it. IANET RUSSELL

Double, double ... Sir. I was delighted to see your

front-page account (21 December) of the invocation of witchcraft to ensure the safety of Channel Tunnel passengers. With the winter solstice having a four-year cycle "in which the forces of earth, air, fire and water are involved", clearly one cannot be too careful.

This evident allusion to a combination of hydrogen derived from oil out of the earth, nitrogen and oxygen taken from the air. their reaction at glowing red temperatures and passage beneath the sea, is a most evocative reference to the manufacture of ammonium nitrate fertiliser and its transportation through the tunnel.

Is it too much to hope that this positive action for the sake of public safety taken by the witches of the Covenant of Earth Magic be supplemented by the wizards of the Health and Safety Executive casting their own spell, declaring this substance to be classified as explosive and forbidding its continued transportation through the tunuel before a wagon-load gets too close to a fire? Dr SIDNEY ALFORD Corsham, Wiltshire

Arts goalposts

Sir: Your report on the Policy Studies Institute's recent study on funding of the cultural sector (Arts Notebook, 21 December) implies that the study has limited relevance because the Government has - through the Lottery-recently "moved the goalposts on arts funding".

An important objective of the study was to see whether this has indeed been the case. Its concentration on the year 1993/94 means it provides a baseline for judging what has happened - where the goalposts initially stood, how far they have been moved, if at all, and, if so, in what direction.

At an apposite moment, this is what the researchers intend to do. BERNARD CASEY **RACHAEL DUNLOP** SARA SELWOOD Policy Studies Institute London NWI

Trustees failed Royal Academy Sir. It is understandable that the

Royal Academy's secretary, David Gordon, should seek to play down the magnitude of the institution's recently disclosed financial and managerial predicament. But David Lister's impression ("Why Monet was the root of art evil", 16 December) that help might be coming from the Academy's "multimillionaire trustees" is surch misplaced: had such support been available, it would not have been necessary, in the first place, to take and use as revenue £1m of trist funds earmarked for capital projects.

Even this, it seems, was

insufficient to keep the Academy solvent while funding its present £7m annual administration cost. It was only the simultaneous withholding of £200,000 of pension fund payments that enabled the Academy to stay within its £2.25m overdraft facility.

Perhaps the trustees will now dig into their own pockets. But, as things stand, it must be said that it seems an extraordinary check for them and the administrators to use the fact of the crisis they have presided over in secrecy as a justification for an increase in their n powers at the expense of those of the academicians. Quite correctly, the membership has now twice refused to code authority to the secretary's proposed new governing body, which would be dominated by trustees and salaried administrators. One would hope that - even if

they make no noises of contrition the secretary and trustees will now have the grace to allow the . members themselves to decide, in the wake of the present administrative débacie, how, and by whom, their own house might best be put back in order. MICHAEL DALEY Director ArtWatch UK

Barnet, Hertfordshire

Why bus rage? Sir: It is possible that the

destruction of 37 buses in Bolton was caused by neither mindless vandalism nor commercial sabotage, but rather by the calculated, if perverse, action of people incensed at being robbed of their mobility by the withdrawal of all bus services over the Christmas holidays ("Vandals wreck bus fleet", 28 December).

If motorists were forbidden to use their cars at Christmas all hell would break loose, but lesser mortals are expected to accept their lot with equanimity. Maybe this misguided and destructive action was a cry of protest from those who see their enforced immobility as yet another symptom of society's accelerating bias against the poor. ALLAN HORSFALL Chairman, The Bus Users' Society

...

5.70

Model males

Sir: In response to Jack O'Sullivan's call for new role models for men in 1997 ("Men plumb the depths of bad behaviour", 26 December), my own hero list is: Frank Zappa, Jean-Paul Gaultier, John Kenneth Galbraith and Brian Eno.

I guess that means I want to be a rock composer with a kill, a degree in economics and a bald head. Does anyone have better ideas" JEREMY CHENTY Cambridge

Thank goodness for middle-class angst over jobs

obs, glorious jobs: they will be dripping from the trees in the new year if all this upbeat talk on the economy is to be believed. Employment prospects are the best for seven years, according to a survey out today from the employment agency Manpower. Coming hot on the heels of the record drop in unemployment reported last month, and the booming Christmas shopping figures, the jobs news is positive indeed.

Big jobs, little jobs, fat jobs,

thin jobs: take your pick, for it seems there is a veritable employment orgy looming. Well, on the basis of the old economic adage that what goes down must, given time, bounce back up again, the news is hardly surprising. But the curi-ous thing is that nobody out in the Lighout market segments. the Labour market seems too cheerful about jobs growth this time round. Too many little thin jobs and not enough fat juicy ones, is the general complaint - and it is voiced loudest among the chartering classes. The new jobs - they tell us - are fragile creatures, liable to up-end and die long before the next recession arrives. Even worse, according to the apocaworse, according to the applica-lyptic pundits, this new fragility problem is hitting the middle classes particularly hard. Whether it be through downsizing, out-sizing or casualisation, something insidious out there is troubling our middle classes, traumatising our national culture, and undermining economic optimism for all. In case you missed it, job insecurity is the zeitgeist for the

end of the century.

Which story should we believe? The Government is backing the glorious jobs tale; the

journalists, insecurity. Neither are to be trusted. The Government's interest in talking up the labour market is clear. But journalists should declare their own preoccupation, too. How many times in the past few years have we seen articles or documentaries on shaky professional jobs and the anxious graduates who fill them?

Irrespective of what is going on in the rest of the country, the publishing world and the media, including national newspapers, have shifted a lot of employees into temporary contracts and freelance work. That and the rising competition for popular jobs are understandably making the hacks feel insecure. And that is why there is so much fuss about the new mid-

die-class msecurity. The real story about the labour market is rather different from both these specialinterest views. Yes, as the Government claims, new jobs are being created. But a surprising proportion of these jobs are indeed part-time or temporary. That borrible anxious feeling of trying to cling to your pay cheque haunts an awful lot of people. But to characterise this angst and uncertainty as a wholly middle-class problem is ludicrous.

OK, we well-educated professional people may have a little to moan about. Two-thirds of the additional professional jobs created in the first four years of recovery were tempo-rary. But middle-class insecurity may well be as temporary as those new jobs.

Think back to the height of the Eighties boom. An awful lot of people switched from one job to another very fast. Because companies were growing, workers found opportuni-



Yvette Cooper

Forget those temporary contracts for computer analysts or market researchers. and consider instead the security guards, the shop assistants ...

> end up in temporary work than their professional peers.
> Even worse: between the odd week's work here and there is the dole. Government statistics show that an astonishing half of new claimants signing on have been on the dole before - and within the past year. A worryingly large group of people are becoming trapped in a weird world on the edge of the labour mar-

ties everywhere. Graduates

flirted with one employer after another. Funnily enough, they

didn't seem to mind the insta-

bility of changing jobs when they were on the up. Instability

only mutated into insecurity

when recession struck. Tempo-

rary contracts suited many peo-

ple fine when they knew they had plenty of offers to choose

Now, with employment rising again, those with the education,

qualifications, or ability to acquire new skills quickly (in other words, the middle classes) are likely to find them-

selves once more in demand.

We have lost our cushion

against recession now, but we haven't lost our market power

when times are good. Given another boom, or even just a few years of steady, sustainable growth, "middle-class job inse-

curity" could slip out of our vocabulary as fast as it slipped

If only the same thing could be said of insecurity in

our society as a whole. Sadly, for the low-skilled, the tor-

ment of never knowing where

the next week's work is coming

from is very real - and it isn't

going away.
Forget those temporary con-

tracts for computer analysis or market researchers for a

moment, and consider instead

the security guards, the builders, the shop assistants

and the care workers. Paid

abysmally and accorded little

employment protection, these

workers really are insecure. As a new Cambridge study

(reported in The Independent

this weekend) reveals, manual workers are far more likely to

ket, stumbling in and out of jobs. The world of work seems to be polarising. The insiders have the skills to adapt, get new jobs and earn higher wages; the outsiders skirt along the edges, lacking the skills to break into

permanent work. Faced with this kind of portrait of the Nineties workplace, there is something rather attractive about middle-class insecurity. After all, if we are ever going to create the political will and the democratic consensus to do something about the problems of the poor and the low-skilled, we may need to persuade everyone else that they have something to gain as well. Nobody worried much about vulnerable employees when they were all manual workers. Life-long learning and retraining could have been very useful for the manufacturing workers who lost their jobs in the Eighties. But adult education has only become sexy since professional workers realised that they could benefit from it too, as they switched between jobs and careers.

Middle-class job insecurity could be a powerful force for change. Let us hope that the new government can capitalise on it and tackle the worse insecurity felt by those at the very bottom of the jobs pile.

Tony's wonder year: a look back at 1997

by Polly Toynbee

soundly for exactly a year, and today is December 30th, 1997. You have missed a lot. Much has happened, much has changed: you need bringing

up to date. When you fell asleep, the ship of state was on the rocks with a mutinous crew. Those shipwrecked mariners now sit glowering and confused upon the opposition benches, still in shock after 18 years of govern-

ment, 50 seats short of power. If you had any doubts about whether New Labour would actually do anything when they won the election, let me set your mind at rest. Tony Blair knew that after his great victory he had only a short time to grab the ini-tiative before the intractability of government fell upon him.

First came the promised Constitution Act, giving some independence to Scotland. The rest of us were bored rigid by this Celtic stuff: only 8 per cent of the population lives in Scotland, after all. One more earnest Dimbleby forum from Edinburgh on the West Lothian question, and the rest of us would gladly have expelled them

from the union altogether.

It made us English resentful.

What was so special about the Scots? They feel oppressed by Westminster? Well, so do we all, especially Londoners, who live under its very shadow without

Blair acted quickly to involve the rest of us. He added in reform of the Lords, abolishing hereditary peers and removing the appointment of life peers by politicians. They are now chosen by the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Arts, the medical Royal Colleges, the Sports Council and other august bodies of the great and good. There are no bishops nor any representatives of other religions, as the Bill also disestablished the Church.

In truth, though, the arcane debate on the powers of the new second chamber threatened to be as boring as the Celts. So Tony Blair chose the moment to go for proportional representation for the Commons, ensuring we would never risk a Portillo, Howard or Redwood government in future. And probably guaranteeing Labour a second term.

At the same time the Commons was reformed: a commission will reduce the number of MPs by half. They will become a more professional cadre with committees served by a large, expert civil-service staff, also providing impartial informa-tion to journalists and others, in the hope of producing betterinformed comment.

Europe welcomed Blair with warmth and generosity. His path is made easier in negotiations because Britain no longer hurls itself like a spanner into



There is a sense that progress is possible, after the years of looking back to an imaginary golden era

the metoric, even now, at the unemployment or pensions: eleventh hour, the single cur- money will only be paid out reacy timetable may slip, as according to need. Labour discontent over sharp cuts in dares to be far tougher on workpensions and welfare spills out fare schemes (under a new on to the streets of Germany name) doing genuinely useful and France. In the election, Labour made

much of the state of the NHS. But nothing has changed, since the structure actually works well. A new independent com-plaints tribunal has been set up, giving rapid reuress to purchasition, including some compensation, ing rapid redress to patients, but withdrawing the right of patients to sue. Contraception clinics for the young are now universal so every secondaryschool pupil has a nurse or clinic to attend, close by and confidential. Teenage preg-nancy rates are already falling. A Royal Commission on

Social Security is about to sweep away the old National Insurance system. There will be no every Euro-machine. Despite new claimants for sickness, time for the money to come in

work, despite trade union objections. The quid pro quo is a raft of well-financed, individualised training and education pro-

Private schools have been nationalised and brought under the control of a commission headed by George Walden, the former Tory MP: it was his idea. They have become superschools for the brightest, regardless of means. As it dawns on middle-class parents of averagely-intelligent children that they will soon be using the state system, they are already turning their attention to the condition

of local schools. The defence budget has been halved, to bring it in line with automatic entitlements for any the rest of Europe. It will take

useless fighter planes and tanks. But it will raise at least £10bn. We are bargaining to give up our permanent seat on the UN Security Council, in exchange for reform of the whole organisation. We have told the Northern Irish that they will have selfgovernment in six months' time. and that our troops will leave. forever. We will not play nanny any longer, so if they want to go

on fighting, that's up to them. Billions have been saved by stopping the huge prison-building programme. In several strong speeches, Jack Straw has told judges to consider sentences that work, with proven he seized the day.

track records for rehabilitation. Lord Tumin has been given money saved from prison building to set up a huge new crimebusting package, investing in prison regimes that reduce reof-fending and schemes for young offenders outside prison that

Lord Will Hutton heads a Commission on the City of London. He will devise ways of actually implementing his own proposals on making banks and institutions invest for the long-term good of the country. The Bank of England has been made independent. Lord Mehyn Bragg has been

given the Department of National Heritage, because no politicians know anything about the arts. He has cancelled the millennium celebration in Greenwich, because it is too expensive for a temporary building. But he has set up a commission on ownership of the media, to consider severe restrictions on the amount of the market controlled by any one company: Labour won a big enough majority to feel no threat now from Murdoch.

As more die of CJD from BSE-infected meat, Labour made maximum use of the disaster to promote a new agri-cultural policy. We no longer fight a futile battle to foist our poisoned produce on our rightly suspicious neighbours. As a mark of our atonement for BSE, we direct subsidies to make British produce a symbol of the very highest quality, famed for organic purity. We may import cheaper meat and vegetables, but we shall export only the best. It makes economic sense to move upmarket.

Two good private member's bills tested the water and inflamed debate. Paul Flynn came top of the MPs' poll and brought in one to abolish the monarchy. Another bill sought to decriminalise cannabis and Ecstasy. Neither got near the statute books, of course. But in the excited debate, public opinion moved a long way in favour of both and the young felt more involved in politics.

So much for policy. All this has left the country reeling. But change was what they voted for. There is a sense that something can be done, progress is possible, problems are not insoluble, after all these years of looking backwards to an imaginary golden era. Many people used to fulminate about New Labour's pre-election caution, but it got them elected. Few thought Blair had the determination to act so decisively. But

Liam and Co play the Nineties game of pop stardom with post-modern aplomb, says Peter Popham

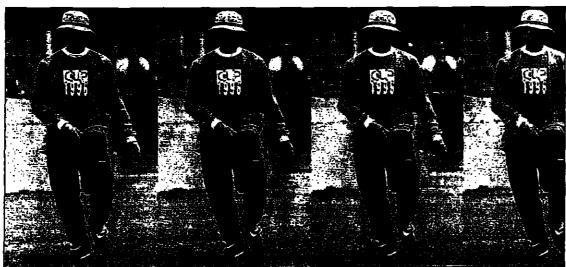
he art of big-time pop celebrity involves being impossible to ignore, no matter what it takes. We had already had enough of Oasis in 1995: 1996 should have been the year they died and disappeared. Indeed, much of the media spent much of the year predicting that event. Many of the stories that kept the band in the headlines were intimations of imminent disaster, the ritualistic paroxysms that band after band has undergone during the past 30-odd years, preceding break-up due to "musical differences": feuds and fights, a cancelled tour of the United States. walk-outs, tantrums, girlfriend distractions, recording studio bust-ups. The new album was postponed and postponed again. Liam was arrested padding along Oxford Street early one November morning, allegedly the worse for drugs. And so on.

But the inevitable did not ensue: each pratfall, by some dreamlike logic, carried the band to a higher place, a securer fame. The only thing that kept the papers talking about them was the imminence of their demise, yet like martial artists Oasis converted all the negative energy and denial into affirmation and acclaim.

At the end of 1996, Oasis are bigger than ever, bigger than anyone since The Beatles and The Rolling Stones at their peak. They have sold 15 million records worldwide. Moming Glory alone has sold eight million. In May, they became the fastest-selling pop group in history, when half-a-million fans telephoned for tickets in five minutes. At Knebworth in August, where they played two concerts, both to 250,000 fans, and one of the concerts was relayed live to radio stations in 34 countries, they

Alone among their peers, Oasis demand comparison with The Beatles. But when The Beatles became repeat what has gone before. That is

oasis after the orgy



world-famous and then set off on their long trajectory towards ultimate disintegration, everything they did was for the first time: they were the first band to have long hair, the first to flirt with the mystic East, the first to take LSD, the first to have problems with their wives. Together with the rather different stories generated by The Stones, Hendrix, The Doors and so on, the myth of pop stardom was invented, with every conceivable wrinkle from madness and murder to boredom and inanity already in place.

Thirty years on, after the whole thing has been rehashed over and over again, all that remains is to

perhaps why the media are so keen to see the back of all the new bands as quickly as possible - it is the boredom of it all, the sheer predictability. But seeing as there is nothing new to be done, seeing as everything has already been tried, Oasis hit upon a novel solution: do everything that can be done, however contradictory and irreconcilable, at the same time.

In this they showed that they have the one key qualification for serious pop fame, far more important than musical ability: they are instinctively in tune with the spirit of the age.

The French sociologist Jean Baudrillard foresaw such a solution to the problem of contemporary fame in his book The Transparency of Evil (1990).

What do we do, he asks, "after the orgy"? After "the moment when modernity exploded upon us, the moment of liberation in every sphere" - the time, in Philip Larkin's formulation, ushered in by the Lady Chatterley trial and The Beatles' first

LP. Now all we can do is simulate the orgy, simulate liberation. We may pretend to carry on in the same direction, accelerating, but in reality we are accelerating in a void, because all the goals of liberation are already behind us ... We are obliged to replay all scenarios precisely because they

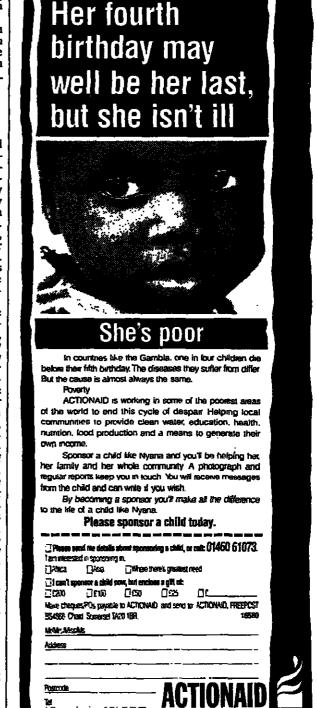
have all taken place already ..." In 1996, Oasis have contrived to replay all scenarios that are available to a pop group. They fight, they kiss, happened yet.

they take the celebrity girlfriend home to mum; they boast about tak-ing drugs, they lend support to a cam-paign against drugs; they conspicu-ously consume, they give abundantly to charity (more than £1m in all); they sneer and spit and swear, they turn out to play football for a good cause. They split, re-form, split, re-form, split, re-form - or perhaps they never split at all, and it's just silly rumours. In this way, by flying in all directions at once, they do what is otherwise very difficult these days: they mesmerise our attention. They also contrive to oversee the

most spookily post-modern develop-ment in pop music ever. "Nothing", Baudrillard went on to say, " ... now disappears by coming to an end, by dying. Instead, things disappear through proliferation or contamination ... or as a result of the epidemic of simulation, as a result of their transfer into the secondary existence of simulation." With uncanny instinct Oasis smile benignly at the "epi-demic of simulation" that now surrounds them: a swelling aureola of tribute bands, No Way Sis. Oasisn't. Oasish, Quoasis and Champagne Supernova, to name a few, who wear their clothes and play their songs as faithfully as possible at more or less humble gigs up and down the land. The most prominent of them, No Way Sis, now have a record contract of their own. It can't be long before they spawn a tribute band of their own. At the still centre of all this strange

and frenzied activity are two workingclass Mancunians with one eyebrow apiece, one of whom, Noel, is down to earth and clever enough to let the whole thing spin on as it must, whatever strange place it may end up in.

One day, too, he may write a song that bears comparison with anything on The Beatles' Revolver. But it hasn't



Professor S. Herbert Frankel

S. Herbert Frankel was a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, and Professor in the Economics of Underdeveloped Countries at Oxford University from a close friend. 1946 until 1971. Born in South Africa in 1903, he lived a life closely intertwined with the fate of the British Empire, with its triumphant expansion fol-lowing the First World War and its rapid contraction after the Second.

His father, a German-Jewish immigrant, had arrived in Johannesburg in 1896; as an "enemy alien" had fled the country during the First World War to escape internment, leaving his wife to bring up the children alone from 1915 to 1920; and then managed to build up a small produce company. (Under the leadership of Frankel's brother, Rudy, this business eventually developed into a major South African conglomerate, the Tiger Oats and National Milling Company.)
With an MA from Johan-

nesburg and a PhD from the LSE. Frankel was appointed professor of economics at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg at the age of 28 and, over the next 15 years, led an extraordinarily active life, combining the roles of academic economist, economic adviser and social critic. It was in this period that he formed that complex of beliefs to which he would remain firmly loyal thereafter, regardless of changing academic fashions and political constellations.

To ensure both economic growth and public welfare, he always maintained, it was essential that governments encourage an environment political, social, cultural - in which private enterprise, individual initiative and capital accumulation could freely develop at every level of society. This credo, of course, put him at odds not only with various monopolistic enterprises (the railway company, for example), but also with the entire system of racial discrimination which, even before the official establishment of apartheid in 1948, denied the vast majority of the population in South Africa any chance of advancement.

Frankel developed his views in a series of books - Cooperation and Competition in the Marketing of Maize in South Africa (1926); Railway Policy of South Africa (1928); and Capital Investment in Africa: its course und effects (1938); as an economic adviser over a 20-year pestatesman and liberal, Jan during the Second World War under General Smuts); and as a founding editor of the Forum, a weekly committed to the gradual destruction of race barriers, speaking (as Frankel put it) for the conscience of South Africa". As a member of Hofmevr's inner circle, Frankel wrote for and helped produce Coming of Age (1930), a collection of articles on the future of South Africa which called for a "political system [built] not upon the treacherous basis of sectional interest but upon the broad and sure foundation of a common civilisation". One of Frankel's contributions (co-authored) to the book was characteristically on "The Poor White and Native". Among his students, and later colleagues, at Witwater-

srand was Helen Suzman, in future years to become the leader of the anti-apartheid Progressive Party, and who always remained

It was during his South African years that Frankel first began to serve frequently as a member of official inquiry commissions - a duty that took up much of his time throughout the 1940s and 1950s. He was certainly well aware that the reports arduously produced by such inquiries were most often fated to be ignored and shelved. But one could not be sure, and the work suited his temperament perfectly, taking him out of the ivory tower and into the workplace and the farm, to the homes of district commissioners and to meetings with tribal chiefs, across the vast stretches of the African continent. He enjoyed the give-and-

take of the committees and the challenge of hammering out a consensus among the members. Mention can be made of three



among many such commissions: the Committee on Miners' Phthisis (1941) which recommended - in vain - a system of social insurance based on loss of earnings; the working party on the East African groundnut scheme (1950), which successfully called for the project's abandonment; and the Royal Commission on East Africa (1953-55) which, among other things, recommended the gradual replacement of tribal by individual land tenure. It was something of ar. irony

that with his move to 2 igland immediately after the Second World War, Frankel ance again found himself in a rather embattled position - the same system of beliefs which had made him a critic of incipient apartheid now led to his relative isolation among Oxford economists, who tended to see in him if not a downright reactionary, riod to the South African then at least an anachronistic colonial. He remained the scep-Hofmeyr (Minister of Finance tic at a time when the take-off of underdeveloped countries Ilse, on Hinksey Hill, Oxford, was widely understood in terms of econometric models, central planning, massive inputs of aid and the extrapolation of growth

Development in the Third World, Frankel insisted, depended not so much on the application of general theories as on the specific cultural, social and economic heritage of a given country; on its ability to apply an equitable and stable system of finance and law enforcement. Or as he himself put it. Those who would wish to develop Africa must hasten slowly, working with nature and not against it." Or again: "Economic progress results from the curbing of political power."

could share common ground with fellow academics, Frankel in 1950 became a member of the Mont Pelerin Society (F.A. Hayek and Milton Friedman were among its members); and for some years he served as a visiting professor at the University of Virginia where the economics department, under the direction of Warren Nutter

(later an Assistant Secretary of Defence in the Reagan administration), was conservatively - or as Frankel would have preferred it, "liberally" inclined. In his autobiography, An Economist's Testimony (1992), Frankel expressed regret that over the years the philosophers and historians had largedropped out of the Mont Pelerin Society, leaving it to the economists. And much of his own writing in later years straddled these various disciplines most notably perhaps his Money: two philosophies (the conflict of trust and authority) (1977) and Money and Liberty (1980).

In Oxford, he found his most congenial settings first in Nuffield College, where he felt able to contribute actively to the development of what was then (just after the war) a still very new institution (and indeed still not built); and second after his retirement in 1971 - in the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies. Here, too, he enjoyed the challenge of new beginnings and Ox-ford has become an important centre of Jewish studies.

By no means an observant Iew. Frankel was none the less committed to the ideas of Jewish peoplehood and he dated his Zionist beliefs back to the First World War. In 1936, he went to Jerusalem to help Chaim Weizmann prepare the evidence to be presented by the Jewish Agency to the Royal Commission on Palestine chaired by Earl Peel (it eventually recommended partition of the country). Of his draft report, Frankel later wrote self-deprecatingly that Lewis Namier, another adviser, "reduced what I had written by a half without the omission of a single idea".

ter the Second World War, Frankel did much to safeguard the infant diamond-cutting production in Palestine and Israel, now a major export industry.

Herbert Frankel was a man of great charm: a natural raconteur, with a remarkable memory for a telling anecdote from his varied life. He made friends easily and from all walks of life; and his friendships were longlasting. For many years the home of Herbert and his wife was a centre of hospitality for colleagues, students, friends and family. In recent years, he continued to follow events closely and to keep his spirits high. He found a certain satisfaction in the respective achievements of Nelson Mandela and Margaret Thatcher.

Sally Herbert Frankel, economist: barn 22 November 1903: Professor of Economics, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 1931-46; Professor in the Economics of Underdeveloped Countries, Oxford University 1946-71 (Emeritus); married 1928 Ilse Frankel (one son, one the curbing of political power." daughter); died 12 December
Looking for forums where he 1996.

Paul Rand

Paul Rand was one of the most influential graphic designers of the 20th century. Although he is not widely known to the public, his work is universally and instantly recognisable – in par-ticular the enduring logotypes he designed over the past 40 years for leading US corpora-tions such as IBM and Apple. Rand was born in 1914 in

Brooklyn, New York. He studied at the Pratt Institute (1929-32), Parsons School of Design (1932-33) and was taught by the graphic artist George Grosz at the Arts Student League (1933-34). Establishing his own studio in 1935, he was amongst the first to initiate what would become design consultancy. He emphasised the importance of the visual element in projecting an idea or identity, where previously text had been the pre-

During and immediately af-

Jonathan Frankel

dominant means of conveying these messages; and with this vi-sual element, the crucial role of the graphic designer.

By 1937, aged only 23, he had achieved the position of art director of both Esquire and Apparel arts magazines.

His studies into the European avant-garde art movements (among them Cubism, De Stijl, Constructivism, and the Bauhaus) significantly influenced these early years and his adaptation of their principles, combined with the inspiration he derived from American culture, developed into a highly individual graphic style. Montage, collage, painting, photography and typography all found a place in his designs, which em-phasised visual, rather than textual, solutions to problem solving. His sharp creative ability and skilful reading of how design should communicate through its content led him to become widely influential whilst still in his twenties.

From 1941 to 1954 Rand worked for the William H. Weintraub advertising agency, where he applied his formidable design approach to adver-tisements. Collaborating with the copywriter Bill Bernbach he developed the integration of design and copy into a model of the "creative team" approach bringing together a group of people to exchange ideas - and thus anticipated a move that

would change the face of ad-vertising in the post-war years. During the 1950s, when graphic design truly evolved, with an explosion in the worlds of television, publishing and corporate identity, Rand was one of the designers who became a seminal figure. From 1955 he freelanced, becoming a graphic consultant to leading US companies, and his work had a huge influence on the development of company corporate identity and its application. IBM, Cummins Engine Company, Westinghouse, United Parcel Service, ABC Televi-sion: all benefited from his

crisp, clear, concise logotypes. His other important contribution to design was in education - he was appointed Professor of Graphic Design at Yale in 1956 and continued to lecture there for the following 36 years. His book Thoughts on Design (1946), illustrated with examples of his work, is regarded as a classic text on graphics, influential on successive generations of designers.

This legacy can be seen in the work of many of today's eminent designers. Alan Fletcher (one of the founding members of Pentagram, the design group) considers Paul Rand to be "the first guru of design"; Rand gave Fletcher, as a young designer, his first freelance work in the United States, for IBM. I was introduced to Rand's



(above) and IBM (below)



work while a student, by a college tutor, Richard McConnell (whose brother, the outstanding designer John McConnell, of Pentagram, is undoubtedly a disciple of Rand's "ideas" approach to graphics). What excited me about it was that the designs were concerned with ideas and content, not just technique. This was design that encompassed both simplicity and clarity of message, by aesthetic and intellectual means, and which surpassed any notion of

It was through my own writings on design, which he encouraged, that I established a November 1996.

friendship and correspondence with Rand over several years. He was unceasingly inquisitive about design in the UK (or Merry England, as he called it) and anything related to design. His sharp wit, anecdotes and invaluable advice were a revelation to me. For a man in his seventies his acute perception of the world was that of a man of half his age.

In his later years Rand became increasingly disaffected with the vacuousness of much of contemporary graphic design, a subject for which he found expression in his brilliant book Detign, Form and Chaos (1994). In it he wrote: "The absence of restraint, the equation of simplicity with shallowness. complexity with depth of understanding and obscurity with innovations, distinguishes the

work of these times." The last time we spoke, only a few days before he died, he was as ever, looking to the future; the planning of a retrospective exhibition of his work to be held in New York and the publication of his latest book. From Lascauce to Brooklyn (1996).

Patrick Argent

Paul Rand, graphic designer. born Brooklyn, New York 1914; Professor of Graphic Design, Yale University 1956-92; married Marion Swannie (one daughter); died Norwalk, Connecticut 26

Sir Laurens van der Post-

Though his health was failing rapidly, Sir Laurens van der Post led a typically fast-paced life right through the final months of his 90th year, writes Robert Hinshaw [further to the obituary by Jean-Marc Potticz, 17 December].

September saw him journeying to the Rocky Mountain heights of Boulder, Colorado, for the "Laurens van der Post Festival", four days and evenings of his films, and daily addresses to a thousand attendees on the subjects of Africa and his friend Carl Jung, the great Swiss psychologist, and reminiscences of the Blooms-

bury Group here in London of which he had been a part. Boul-der also marked the premiere of a biographical film of Sir Laurens, Hasten Slowly, by Michael

his new book, The Admiral's Baby, with readings, signings and interviews, followed shortly thereafter by a journey to one of his favourite "homes away from home". Zurich, where he was honoured with an award. Sir Laurens was generous in his giving, especially of himself, and was turned to by his friends and acquaintances frequently in times of need. When one of his

Back in London, he launched

very closest friends, C.A. Meier, lay dying in Zurich last year, van der Post, in pain and poor health himself, made three journeys to Switzerland to comfort leier in his final weeks.

Without being overly nostal- as he loved to call it - to delivgic, he loved to relate the history of places, buildings and people to his younger friends, or to take them to a restaurant serving traditional English fare. He seemed to know every building on every road in Chelsea, and to travel his back-street routes and hear his stories along the way was always a spe-

Though not a regular church-

goer he was a thoroughly religious man. In the past 15 years, his own most treasured ritual was to travel to the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City - "my parish church".

er the sermon on the Fourth Advent Sunday.

Alas, most of his future projects will never be realised, but one that will is The Rock Rabbit and the Rainbow - Laurens van der Post among friends (Dai-mon, Einsiedeln, 1997): origi-nally conceived as a Festschrift, it evolved in the course of the past year to become an amalgam that now includes several of his

own recent essays, letters and late thoughts (expected publication date. February 1997).

The last book by Sir Laurens van der Post, writes Gopinder Panesar, was not as stated The Admiral's Baby but The Secret River, the retelling of a pan-African myth - and Sir Laurens's only children's picture book. It was published by Barefoot Books just a few weeks ago. and was of special significance to Sir Laurens, who recalled how in Africa his close friend TC. Robertson had often described him as "one of the last of the barefoot boys".

Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

DORMER: Peter Andrew, much-loved husband of Jane, son of Trudy, sister of Limet, and son-in-law of John and Mary, died at home on 24 December, aged 47, after a long diness, Funeral at St Giles, Crapplegate, the Barbican (corner of Fore Street and Wood Street), London, at 11 nm. Friday 3 January, followed on Saturday by a family burnal in Nortolis, Family fiberers, Donatrons if desired to Annesty ers. Donations if desired to Amnesty International or NSPCC.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HOAR: Graham Peter. A memorial scr-tice will take place on Thursday Io January 1997, at St Band's Church, London, at I2 moon, to oclebyate the life of Graham, who died tragically on 22 October 1999. 2" October 1995.

Annuncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adaptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be went in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 9171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 1171-293) 2012 or Eared to 0171-293 2018, and are charged at £6.50 a line 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Oueen's Lake Guard at Seese Guards, Ham; 1st Battalase The Road Reconent of Wales mounts the 11. Tian, band provided by the Grenatier

Birthdays Mr Arnold Allen former chairman

UK Atomic Energy Authority, 72; Mr Gordon Banks, footballer, 59; Mr David Bedford, athlete, 47; Professor Sir Roy Calne, surgeon and im-munologist, 60; Mr Anthony Cripps QC, 83; Mr Geraint Davies, con-troller, BBC Wales, 53; Mr Bo Diddley, singer, composer and guitarist, 68; General Sir David Fraser, former UK representative to Nato, 76; Sir Archibald Hamilton MP, 55; Lord Harvington, former deputy Speaker. House of Commons, 89; Sir John Houghton, former chief executive the Meteorological Office, 65; Lord Howick of Glendale, a former managing director, Baring Bros, 59; Dame Rosalinde Hurley, microbiologist, 67; Mr Mark Kaplan, violinist, 43; The Right Rey Peter Nott, Bish-43; Inc Right Rev Peter Nott, Bish-op of Norwich, 63; Mrs Gwendolen Randall, Head, Framlingham Col-lege, 46; Sir Albert Robinson, former High Commissioner in the UK for Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 81; Mr Nick Skelton, show jumper, 39; Lord Terrington, former member of the Stock Exchange, 81; Miss Tracey Ullman actress and comedicane, 37; Mr David G. Wadsworth, Chief Education Officer for Bedfordshire, 52; Sir David Willcocks, former director, Royal College of Music. 77; Mr Clifrector, the Royal Shakespeare

Anniversaries

company, 70,

Births: John Philips, poet, 1676; Heinrich Karl Ebell, jurist, musician and composer, 1775; Heinrich Germer, pianoforte teacher and theorist, 1837: Joseph Rudyard Kipling, author and poet, 1865; Simon Guggenheim, senator and philanthropist, 1867: Stephen Butler Leacock, hu-

Leslie Poles Hartley, novelist, 1895; Sir Carol Reed, film director, 1906. Deaths: Richard, Duke of York, killed, 1460; Pope Innocent IX, 1591; John Turberville Needham, priest and

scientist, 1781: Amelia Jenks Bloomer, social reformer, 1894; Grigori Yelimovich Rasputin, peas-ant and mystic, murdered 1916; Romain Rolland, author, 1944; Maurice Denton Welch, novelist and artist, 1948; Trygre Halvdan Lie, first sec-retary-general of the United Nations, 1968: Richard Charles Rodgers. composer, 1979. On this day: the Yorkists suffered a defeat at the Bat-tle of Wakefield, 1460; Scindhiah, Maharajah of Gwalior, submitted to the British, 1803; Gilbert and Sullivan's opera The Pirates of Penzance had its first performance at Paignton, Devon, 1879; Paul Kruger declared the Transvaal to be a republic, and became the first president, 1880; Zu-luland was annexed to Natal, 1897; France transferred sovereignty to Vietnam, 1949. Today is the Feast Day of St Anysia, St Anysius, St Eg-win and St Sabinus of Spoleto. **Builders' Company**

The following have been installed as officers of the Worshipful Company

of Builders:

Church appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England: The Res Mark Abrest, Assistant Curate, West The New Mark Abory, Avergant Carate, West Deeby St Mary: to be Process-in-charge, Anfield Margaret, and Chaplan, Alder Rey Cal-dred's Hospital (Luctpool). Canon Bernard Baker, Carate-in-charge, Ryde St James Propuetary Chapel (Partemouth): to be on the staff of the Amain

Chrotian Training Centre (Crosslinks) in Rupha, Tanzamp. The Rev Dr William Brierley, Assistant Cu-rate, American with Coleshill: to be Rom Vic-ar (designate) in the Wheatley Team Ministry (Oxford). The Rev Trevor Davies, Assistant Carate

The Rev Kerry Emmett. Rector, Ravenstons and Swammington, to be also Rural Deate, Akeley South (Leicester).

The Rev Dovid Felix, Vicar, Grange: to be also
Pressi-in-charge, Runcorn Holy Trinity
(Chernoletics)

Chester).

Canon Konteth Harris, retired: has been Priest-in-charge (NSM), Ashton Hayes since I Decomber 1996 (Chester).

The Rev David Meekin Precentor, Seerist and Mimor Canon, Durham Cathedral: to be Visar, Rydope (Durham).

The Rev Harry Stration, Vicar, Rancum Holy Thinly: to be Vicar, Lustinck Gralam (Chester).

The Rev David Taylor, Assistant Curate, Cheadle Hulme All Saints: to be Vicar, Macchesticili St John (Chester).

The Rev Startley Walter, Vicar, Seasomber, to be Chaplain, Cheshure County Cadet, Force and Assistant Curate, Lache-cum-Salney (Chester).

(Chester).
The Rev Diane Watson, Assistant Carate, Grange: to be also Assistant Carate, Rancorn Holy Binnty (Chester).
The Rev David Weit, Assistant Carate, West Leigh St Alban and Warren Park St Clare; to be Assistant Carate West Leigh St Alban (Portamouth).

RESIGNATIONS and RETTREMENTS

The Rev Andrew Barnet, Vicar, Bicker and Wigsoit (Lincoln's to retire 3) January 1997. The Rev Rubert (Jim) Gyton, Priest-incharge, Castle Acre with Newton, Rooghum and Southacte (Norwich): to retire 31 Janu-

Canon John Herklots, Vicar, Denmead AB Sams (Partsmouth): to retire J June 1997. The Rev Paul Masterno, Vicar, Helprungham with Hair (Lincoln): to reture 31 March 1997. with Hair (Limyoln); to reture 31 March 1997. The Rev Raymond Paston, Viene, Old Clee Holy Binity and St Mary the Virgin (Lincoln); in reture 31 January 1997. The Rev John Rollard, Viene, Maidonhead St Puter (Oxford); to retire. The Rev William Williams, Viene, Hemsby and Poest In-charge, Winterton with East and West Sottleton and House (Nanwigh); retired 1 December 1996.

Christmas for me is not an occasion for discussion or debate. It is a time for contemplation and wonder. We enter into its meaning and mystery, it seems to me, not so much by thinking and talking about it as by the act of attention. Consider the means by which, for most

of us, Christmas has entered into our mind and imagination. Not by discussion or the reading of theological books, but by the realing and hearing of stories, by nativity plays, by poetry, by the repetition of fa-miliar carols and hymns, by looking at pic-tures of the Virgin Mother and her Child. None of these describes the mystery of

Christmas in a way that is either literal or exhaustive. All are more or less allusive or symbolic. They work on us less by use of the discursive intellect (though reason is not excluded) than by attention and imagination. I can read a story or look at a picture

with or without attention. If I look for a moment and then look away, it does nothing to me. But if I listen to the story or watch the drama or look at the picture with sustained attention, and if the story or the drama or the picture has inherent power, then I shall be changed.

The story of Christmas has such power. Attention to such a story is inseparable from wonder, and wonder from love, and love from transformation. As the mystery enters my heart, or as I enter into the mystery. I find words with which to speak of it less and less adequate. As a wise man said long ago, we come at God not by knowing but by loving. And no one can

Meanings of Christmas The story of the birth of

Bringing heaven down to earth

Christ has the power to change those who contemplate it. The Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, explains why.

mystery? It is that (in the words of St John) "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Pather.) full of grace and truth." There is a paradox here, as we can see by looking back at the prophet Isaiah:

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades,

whereas the Word of God is eternal, the same yesterday, today and for ever-Human flesh is like grass. It grows out of the earth, it flowers for a day, and then returns to the earth from which it came. "Dust to dust, earth to earth, ashes to ashlove without being changed.

What is the heart of this transforming on the way to our funeral. How in our trancs." The day of our birth is the first step

sience are we to lay hold of the eternal? The saving mystery of Christmas lies in this, that the Word of God has become flesh, the eternal has revealed itself in the transient. Heaven has come down to earth and if we want to find beaven, the place to look for it is at our feet, where the child lies in the straw. There we see the wonder of the infant Word (literally, the Word that cannot speak) - as Bishop Lancelot Andrewes put it in the sermon be preached before King James I on Christmas Day 1618: "Indeed, every word is here a wonder ... verburn infans, the Word without a word; the eternal Word not able to speak a word; a wonder sure."

Andrewes goes on to consider the swaddling clothes, the crib and the stable. So low has the Lord come. "For a stable is a place for beasts, not for Men. So low. Well may this be said to be a sign, in this sense, to wonder at. If it be well looked into, it is able to strike any man into ecstasy.

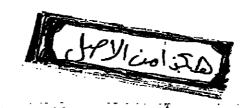
So here is the wonder: the eternal which makes itself present in time, the omnipresent in a limited space, the immortal in immortality, greatness in simplicity, the glories of heaven in the dirt and dung of a stable. There is nowhere else to look for him and, if we look elsewhere, we shall not find him.

Why then is he here, this infant, this unspeaking Word? To point the way to heaven, which is beyond all words. Why is he here, this Word become flesh? To bring heaven down to earth, so that we. who belong to earth, may find ourselves

•

.23 2.5

in heaven. That is the wonder of Christmas.



The big winners and losers in roller-coaster world of junior markets

The backers of the City's two junior share markets must be handful of constituents, it blos- to 200p. Just how much any pleased with themselves. AIM somed beyond the belief of takeover bid will be worth and Ofex have suffered only oc-casional hiccups and avoided the run of disasters predicted in so many quarters.

Of course, the two markets brainchild of an old-fashioned. highly experienced jobber, John Jenkins

They evolved from the demise of two Stock Exchangesponsored markets. AIM was seen as the successor to the old and for a long time successful Unlisted Securities Market and Ofex appeared because of and Ofex appeared because of a decision to axe the old 4.2 matched bargains market.

It could be around that Bare and Internet products, packed more into its brief, peak, has scored a hit with its

from any large calamity. This month Greenbills, a are chalk and cheese. AIM, or the Alternative Investment dubious distinction of being its Market, is the creation of the Stock Exchange: Ofex is the whereabouts of Firecrest, Stock Exchange: Ofex is the shares will return to market, although the whereabouts of Firecrest, Stock Exchange: Ofex is the shares will return to market, and there seem reasonable hopes the shares will return to market, and there is the shares will return to market, and there is the shares will return to market, and there is the shares will return to market, and there is the shares will return to market, although the shares will return to market although the shares wi which lost its listing when its two spousors retired, must be market include Abacus Reshareholders.
The last word was Firecrest

a share-trading facility.

Firecrest, which is in such

After a hesitant start, with a ride went from extremes of 37p even its greatest supporters must be a matter of conjecture. and is nudging around 300 There has even been talk of stocks. It has also remained free 330p a share.

A number of other AIM companies are suspended but

causing anxiety among its cruitment, Surrey Free Inns and Pan Andean Resources. Abacus is standing at an could be the subject of a take-over bid from a US group with profits recovery. It was founded as an accountancy agency but has spread into such activities



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Pan Andean, despite the shock of a dry well which the world and its dog had regarded as a surefire success, can still muster a ride from 17.5p to



51.5p. Mind you, when the excitement over its Bolivian involvement was at its peak, the

shares soared to 135.5p.

The big successes on Ofex include Display IT Holdings, which has produced a rival to the Reuters financial screens, Motion Media, with video tele-phones, and Robotic Tech-It is not surprising that such

a lightly regulated market has suffered a few highly forget-table experiences, SkyNet, sup-

about to move to AIM. But then the AIM move failed to materialise as questions were work with the shares, down to 15p, were suspended. Woodstock's board, it was asked about the rampant Ofex stated, had "recently become icling the problems have been share price. Ofex then decid-aware of certain financial made on the Ofex screen and

raising £2m. The company has came the bombshell. Wood-since made a £2m debenture is-stock said Kingston had desue and drawn down £900,000. faulted on its obligations to It is now talking about further cash-raising which will involve a rights issue and another

restaurant arm, it was stated, continued to trade satisfacto-Services Direct is another rily. Group chairman Richard Ofex casualty. Joint administrators have put together a phones, and Robotic Technology, with robot grinding group. The shares remain sus-

pended at 60p.

Woodstock, a pubs and restaurants group, is also suspended. It was floated by stock-broker Austin Friars Securities such problems so quickly after broker Austin Friars Securities its Ofex launch must be of con-tis Ofex launch must be of con-

to hear a word directly from Woodstock.

had put in a receiver. The

For a business to run into

The announcements chroned to suspend the shares.

The AIM float was geared to

irregularities within its through newspapers, such as The AIM float was geared to

Kingston Inn offshoot. Then The Independent. It is time the company explained itself to shareholders who, among other things, remain unaware Bass, the brewing giant, which of the identity of the new chairman, whether anything will be salvaged from the Kingston problems, what im-pact they will have on the other part of the group and Flatau resigned.

The company promised a "further detailed announcement in the very near future prior to a resumption in the shares".

Let's hope Ofex and Austin Securities insist Wood-

Friars Securities insist Wood-

OFT turns up heat over code of practice



Sue Slipman: 'Important to

Business Correspondent

The gas and electricity industry regulators are facing pressure from the Office of Fair Trading to come up with a tough enforceable code of practice aimed at stamping out dubious sales tactics by rival suppliers in the move towards full domestic

competition planned for 1998. The OFT, the UK's overall competition watchdog, is to bring together the gas watchdog.
Ofgas, and its counterpart in the electricity industry, Offer, at a private conference in January to discuss how a binding joint

code could be developed. The move follows pressure from the Gas Consumers Council to replace a controversial voluntary code produced by the gas industry, which even some independent suppliers have claimed was too weak.

It comes six weeks before the second large trial of household gas competition begins in the south of England. Some 1.5 million homes will be able to choose an alternative supplier to British Gas for the first time in Dorset, the former county of Avon, Kent and Sussex.

Sue Slipman, director of the Gas Consumers Council

Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, had now accepted that Ofgas should play a bigger role in developing and policing an enforceable code of conduct.

Previously Ms Spottiswoode has argued that marketing was a matter for the OFT and local trading standards officers. However Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity watchdog, is already believed to be in favour of a binding code of prac-tice, with Offer as the enforcement agency.

Ms Šlipman explained: "I think it's now imperative that we have an enforceable code to put

(GCC), said she believed Clare the public's mind at rest and practice on the grounds that it stamp out cowboy selling tactics. We need to sort this thing out before the second phase of competition comes in."

Eastern Gas, part of the Hanson group, recently faced criticism from the GCC and Ofgas following complaints about its doorstep marketing tactics in Kent. Some representatives of the company had allegedly told potential customers that British Gas was changing its name to

One independent domestic supplier competing in the trials, Calortex, has so far refused to sign up to a voluntary code of

does not go far enough. Another, Amerada Hess, has backed the GCC in pushing for a much tougher legally enforceable code.

Ofgas said the issue depended on the outcome of the OFT conference in the new year. "We're concerned that competition is being introduced fairly and that customers are not being hoodwinked. But you should wait and see what hap-pens at the Office of Fair Trading conference. I'm not saying we won't take a stronger line but we are not ready to do that at the moment."

Ofgas is under attack from big industrial gas customers over a separate industry code of practice which suggests it will take much longer to change from one supplier to another. A copy of the internal code, seen by The Independent, says the process of changing suppliers is likely to take three months.

A spokeswoman for the Energy Intensive Users Group, with representatives including ICI and British Steel, said: "This is just unacceptable. The suppliers have come up with this code of practice because things are in such a mess, but haven't consulted companies about it."



Clare Spottiswoode: Ofgas

Firms face sanctions over pensions

Nic Cicutti

Thousands of small and medium-sized firms could face fines and other legal sanctions through failing to implement provisions within the new Pensions Act in April 1997, a leading firm of benefit consultants warned yesterday.

Among the most common likely problems will be the failure to give members the option to nominate trustees, to appoint auditors to pension schemes, maintain up-to-date accounts and keep separate bank accounts for trustees.

Johnstone Douglas, a pay and benefits firm which advises companies on how to convert their pension funds from finalsalary to money-purchase schemes, yesterday blamed lack of time for the problem.

But Doug Johnstone, the company's managing director, added that he was concerned at the low levels of understanding person for schemes between 12 the low levels of understanding by many firms of the changes that need to be implemented when the Pensions Act comes

He said: "From our own experience, we believe that almost 90 per cent of small and medium-sized firms have not yet taken advice on the minlications of the new legislation, and simneeds to be done.

"There is a real danger that they are going to fail to comply by default. This will potentially affect many thousands of mem-

bers of company schemes. The deadline next April follows the passing by Parliament of the 1995 Pensions Act, figures showing that few firms sparked by the disappearance of more than £400m in pension funds belonging to past and present staff of companies owned by Robert Maxwell, the former media tycoon. His death in November 1991 and the hunt for the missing money sparked the Government's pension

The new Pensions Act, which

not have prevented the Maxwell pensioners' money from disappearing, nevertheless imposes onerous conditions on new pen-

Among the changes required under the Act are new requirements for contracting out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme, or Serps.

Company pension schemes will also be required to pay a levy to cover the cost of the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra), the funds' watchdog, together with financing the new compensation scheme. The maximum cost for existing members of company schemes was recently set by the Government on a sliding scale whereby smaller schemes

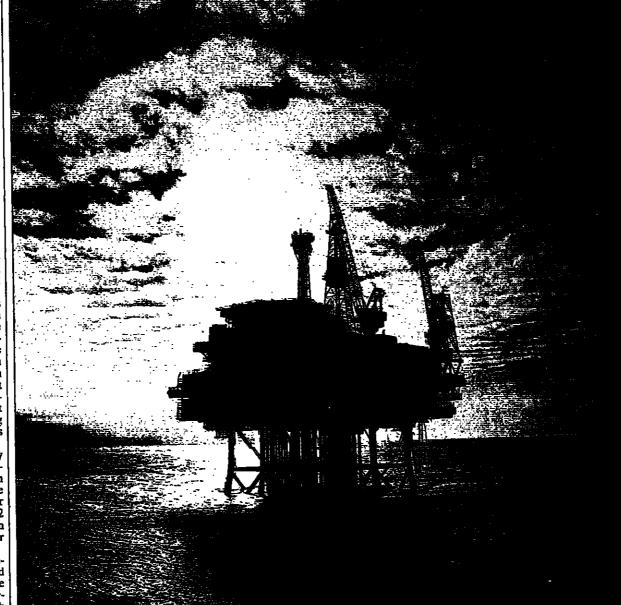
In 1997-1998, the annual levy for the regulator will cost between 8p per member in schemes with 10,000 or more and 99 members. The maximum compensation levy will be 23 per person a year.

Oliver Heald, the Social Security Minister who announced the charges, said: "I believe we have struck the right balance between the security for each scheme and costs that come with that security.

criticised for the unnecessary expense and bureaucracy involved in administering it, plus a new minimum funding requirement, which some experts predict could lead to higher employers contributions.

have so far switched out of complicated, and potentially ex-pensive, final-salary pension schemes, experts believe the trickle will turn into a flood after April, when the Act comes into

Mr Johnstone said: "There is a real danger [firms] are going to fail to comply [with the Act] many experts point out would step in to impose fines.



Striking it rich: Combined oil and gas tax revenues were estimated to have reached £54m a day in November

£20bn bonanza forecast from North Sea oil

Nic Cicutti

North Sea oil and gas revenues will contribute more than £20bn to the Exchequer over the next six years, according to unpub-lished forecasts by the Inland

The Revenue expects North Sea revenues to reach £4.1bn during the 1997-98 tax year, tailing off slightly to £3.4bn by the year 2001-2002.

The figures come as a separate report by Royal Bank of Scotland, issued today, showed that provisional estimates of combined oil gas and oil tax revenues for November reached £54m per day, 21 per cent up on the same month in 1995.

The Revenue's forecast for future tax income, issued yesterday by the Scottish National Party, is based on output remaining at similar levels to today, while oil and gas prices stay broadly as at present.

Tax revenues are structured to take a larger proportion of any increase in the price of oil and gas. This year oil prices have surged from \$18 to around \$24 a barrel, taking the industry by

The SNP said a study by the University of Aberdeen, published in November showed that for each US\$1 increase in the price of a barrel of oil, the about £9.4m a day ahead of the Government receives an extra

50 per cent in revenue. At \$16 a barrel, oil revenue alone between 1997 and 2000 will be almost £11bn, rising to £18bn if oil reaches \$22 a barrel. Nicola Sturgeon, SNP ener-

gy spokeswoman and prospecive parliamentary candidate in Glasgow Govan, said: "These figures confirm the massive contribution that Scotland's energy wealth will continue to

make to the London Treasury. "It is all the more staggering when you consider that Labour and Tory politicians in the 1970s telling [us] that the oil would not last 10 years. It was their way of making sure that we did not get any ambitious ideas."

Ms Sturgeon added that the revenue assumptions, which were part of the Inland Revenue's Budget calculations, were underpinned by a government statement that oil and gas reserves will last for the next years. The SNP demand for Scottish independence meant these resources could be used

to meet Scotland's priorities. The Revenue figures come as a report by Royal Bank of Scotland, out later today, shows that UK gas and oil production rose to its highest level since Octo-ber 1995. Provisional estimates of the daily combined oil and gas revenues show they were November 1995 total.

Textile makers decide whether to throw in towel

Chris Godsmark

European textile manufacturers will decide this week whether to abandon their long-running legal battle against UK government aid for a controversial Taiwanese factory due to be built in Northern Ireland, following a recent defeat in the

European Court.

by default and Opra may then

Hualon Corporation. Their objections have been on the grounds that it will create huge unnecessary produc-tion capacity in an industry which has already been drastically slimmed down.

To the outrage of existing tex-Associations representing tile companies, the Governleading textile producers inment has agreed to provide cluding Coats Vivella and Cour-£61m in subsidies for the plant taulds Textiles are thought to

have so far spent some £60,000 field site in a deprived area for the European producers fighting the £157m project north of Belfast and is planned planned by the Taiwanese to create 1,800 jobs. Earlier this month the in-

dustry umbrella-group, the European Association for Apparel and Textiles, lost a European Court challenge against the de-cision by the European Commission to clear the aid package. Judges said no rules had been broken by the Commission when it approved the

state aid. Brussels-based lawyers acting

have been examining the judgment and are likely to ask the court for further clarification. John Wilson, director general of the British Apparel and Textiles Confederation, said he had been deeply disappointed by the judgment and was discussing the way forward with his counter-

parts on the Continent. He explained: The court seems to be suggesting that because Hualon say that is what they are going to do then we

should not contest it. That seems crazy to me. We are ruling though there don't seem to be any points of law we can contest.

If the producers decide against an appeal it would provide a boost for Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board (IDB), the government agency for inward investment, and clear the way for the plant's construction three years after the original announcement.

the IDB is reviewing the scale looking at several aspects of the of the aid package, which depends on the full number of jobs being created. The IDB's chief executive visited Taiwan earlier this month and is believed to have discussed the subsidy with

> Mr Wilson insisted the campaign mounted by producers had not been a total failure. It had succeeded in delaying the project and highlighted the crisis affecting the industry.

Call to replace Cadbury and Greenbury codes

Roger Trapp

The Cadbury and Greenbury codes on executive pay and comorate governance should be replaced by a clearer framework allowing businesses to be transparent and accountable about their values, an influential group of companies will urge

This would include heads of companies setting out consis-tently where their business is going, what it stands for, where success is expected to come from, who is crucial to the achievement of that success

and what could stop it from happening.

The recommendations are Tomorrow's Company in its evidence to the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance, the successor to the Cadhury Committee.

this year by a group of businesses, says widespread adoption of this approach would create a common language of accountability and provide a framework for measuring and communicating present performance and future prospects.

The centre, formed earlier Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures

of the key causes of public cynicism about business - the published by the Centre for tendency to have different messages for different audiences. In its submission, the centre urges that the basis of the framework should be the agenda for action produced by the

> and Commerce's Tomorrow's Company Inquiry.
> The centre's evidence to the Hampel Committee, which has taken over from the Cadbury Committee, is also a response

It would also overcome one out among leading chief ex- the important thing is to reach of the key causes of public ecutives and chairmen by the point "where you don't Greenly's, a management consultancy focusing on boardroom issues.

It found that there was wide-

spread support for Cadbury and a more negative view of Greenbury, which was seen as a "knee-jerk response to pub-lic outery". But even with Cadbury there was concern that it encouraged a "box-ticking, bureaucratic mentality"

BT's Sir Iain Vallance, for in-

the point "where you don't ignore it but simply act naturally in its observance Martin Taylor of Barclays is reported regretting that the Cadbury code had prompted

non-executive directors to concentrate on the "policing function of their role rather than the encouraging, visionary aspect of The submission also urges the Hamnel Committee to remind all listed companies that their

Martin Taylor: Visionary

stance, is quoted by the research legal duty is to the company as as likening the governance rules a whole and not to the hole to the highway code and saying of shares at any one time. a whole and not to the holders to a "climate audit" carried INTEREST RATES CURRENCIES

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Labour hits at **UK sell-off**

Nic Cicutti

Almost two-thirds of all inward investment into the UK in 1995 involved existing British businesses being taken over by foreign companies, the Labour Party claimed yesterday.

Of the £14bn invested in the UK last year, about £8.5bn, or per cent last year. some 60 per cent, came from takeovers. These included the the US power generator, Calsale of Seeboard, the regional electricity company, for £1.6bn to US utility Central & South West and the acquisition of South Western Electricity by British companies include the Southern Company of Georgia for £1.1bn. Stephen Byers, Labour's

said: "The Tories constantly claim the UK attracts inward in- dinavian conglomerate. for vestment because we have no more than £900m and the recminimum wage and have opted out of the Social Chapter. These figures show such claims are misleading and are simply deceiving the British people ... the reality is that the majority of inward investment

shadow employment minister,

"Our nation's assets are being sold abroad, with profits being siphoned off overseas. The Government applauds this as inward investment - what a misuse of the English language."

Labour's survey, taken from official UK Balance of Payments statistics and a parliamentary answer by Greg Knight, the Trade Minister. shows that since 1985, the proportion of inward investment re. sulting from takeovers has risen steadily from 15 per cent to may The figures come days after

Energy, won its bitterly con-tested £782m hostile takeover bid for Northern Electric. Other recent foreign takeovers of agreed £1.3bn bid for East Mid. lands Electricity by Dominion Resources, the Virginian power supplier, Trafalgar House's acquisition by Kvaerner, the Scanommended deal for London Electricity by New Orleans. based Entergy for £1.3hn.

Analysts believe the inevitable further restructuring of UK utilities will lead to thou. sands of job cuts, although this comes from foreign investors would have been inevitable in making rich pickings of what is respective of who owned the companies concerned.

Mr Byers said: "The Gov. ernment is constantly claiming that inward investment creates iobs in Britain. That is certainly not the case when utilities are taken over by foreign firms.

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a happy New Year

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Or should that

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and good job-hunting

to Britain's 1.9 million

New Year 1997, the last Hogmanay before the hustings. We all know politicians are lousy at keeping promises but they can at least make resolutions. And what better than to 'Politicians will realise resolve to reform Britain's approach to the electorate wants measuring unemployment. To some this openness, not may seem a rather arcane suggestion for the festive season, the kind of thing that provides illusion. For now, let's a turn-on for none save a few sad anorakraise a toast and wish

However, when one reflects on the extent to which key macro-economic and employment policy decisions are based on job statistics, the importance of a clear picture of unemployment becomes self-evident. Yet, at present, the picture is anything but clear.

The Government may appland the downward path in unemployment, which has taken the monthly count of people claiming Job-seeker's Allowance below the politically sensitive 2 million mark. But the claimant count is widely mistrusted.

In 1995, the Royal Statistical Society called for a new monthly count to be derived from the 60,000 household based Labour Force | ployment. Although derived from a

employed jobseeker. But the LFS is conducted on a quarterly basis and the Treasury has ruled out the extra £8m a year needed to upgrade it (the Chancellor's fiscal rectitude on this matter being backed up by ministers at the Department for Education and Employment who, with the general election on their minds, are concerned by the fact that the level of unemployment as measured by the LFS is around 200,000 higher than the

However, even if the Treasury were to relent, it is not clear whether the LFS measure alone is a totally reliable indicator of the extent of slack in the jobs market. For example, the standard LFS measure excludes people on the margins of the workforce who tell the LFS that they want jobs and might enter the market in good times. Moreover, the standard LFS measure may well understate the social distress caused by unem-

household survey, it measures unemployed individuals, whereas the social distress zused by unemployment may well depend upon the distribution of joblessness across

Wanted: a warts-and-all tally of UK's jobless

What is required, therefore, is a range or spectrum of unemployment measures that, when considered together, can provide a truly rounded account of Britain's unemployment

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics adopted such an approach in 1976 and, following a modification made in 1995, publishes six measures of unemployment based on its monthly equivalent of the LFS.

Now that the need for a range of inflation measures has been accepted in Britain - with the Treasury publishing RPI, RPIX and RPIY-why not also adopt the US-style spectrum approach to measuring unemploy-

This was precisely the question posed ear-lier this year by the House of Commons Select Committee on Employment, which called for a new approach to compiling the obless figures. But the Government rejected this call, merely responding that it would be "keeping under review the need for more informative reporting of unemployment

Faced with this official reticence, the Employment Policy Institute (EPI) has deaided to construct its own range of unemployment measures in conjunction with the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics. These are published quarterly as part of a regular and wideranging Employment Audit of government

jobs figures.
The EPI joblessness indicators - U1 to U5, available for the summer 1996 quarter - are shown in the chart. Although US thinking has influenced the EPI's approach the EPI indicators have been designed with the British labour market in mind. The first three indicators focus on labour market slack. U1 of any corresponding reduction in the numis the standard measure of unemployment ber of workless households. These account provided by the LFS and covers all eco- for almost one in five of all British houseprovided by the LFS and covers all economically active jobseekers. U2 includes in addition so-called "discouraged workers", ie people who do not seek jobs because they feel there are no jobs available.

U3 adds to the numbers in U1 and U2 those whose response to the LFS is merely that they want a job. This indicator includes all the people marginally attached to the labour market who might enter the market in buoyant times. It could be said to approximate to the number of jobs needed to

create "full employment" in Britain.

The last three indicators are more akin to measures of social distress. U4 refers to the duration of job search and measures people who have been unemployed for more than six months. U5 moves away from an individually-based joblessness indicator to a

U5a measures individuals living in house holds where no adult has a job, while U5b measures households where no adult has a job. The indicator excludes households where the head of household is beyond retirement age and those containing only stu-

What do these indicators tell us about current levels of jobiessness? Well, for a start, U3 shows that the number of jobless people who say they want a job is not the 1.9 million registered by the claimant count, but well over 4 million. Of course, caveats abound. There are undoubtedly people measured by U3 whose desire for work is not matched by any form of realism about the type of work they are likely to get. But U3 none the less points to a considerable "job shortfall" in

U1-U4 do broadly reflect the trend fall in unemployment registered by the claimant count. However, with regard to the "social distress" indicator U5, there has been no sign |

holds - up from well below one in ten 20 years ago. Between the summer of 1994 and the summer of 1995 - the latest quarter for which U5 can be constructed - the number of such households increased by 250,000.

The EPI has an open mind on whether U1 to U5 are the most appropriate indicators and how they might be developed. Their purpose is as much to stimulate debate on a new approach as it is to offer the final word on easuring unemployment.
What is clear from these indicators, how-

ever, is that large numbers of jobless peo-ple, particularly those living in workless households, cannot find work even after four years of recovery in the labour market.

There is an urgent need for further poli-cies to help them; and good policy-making requires a complete picture of the underly ing jobs scene. In the short term, of course, it will be politically expedient for the present government to focus on the "good news" from the claimant count.

And there is as yet no guarantee that a Labour government would necessarily want to provide the British people with a warts-and-all account of the jobs market.

However, sooner or later the penny will drop and politicians will realise that what the electorate wants is openness, not illusion. For now, let's raise a toast and wish a happy New Year and good job-hunting to Britain's 1.9 million unemployed. Or should that be 4

The writer is director of the Employment Policy Institute, an independent think-tank. The EPI Employment Audit is available as a quarterly subscription publication, priced p.u. from Employment Policy Institute, Southbunk House, Black Prince Road, London SE1

Pearson's eyeball-counter focuses on a bigger prize

It has emphatically not been a concede he was keeping his attempt to diversify into the good year for Pearson, the £7bn media and financial services conglomerate. But it hasn't been a half-bad one for the man who runs Europe's largest independent producer, Pearson

Television - Greg Dyke. Consider that Grundy Worldwide, the makers of Neighbours, produces soaps and game shows in Germany, Holland, Sweden and Italy and ten other countries. Or that Thames, makers of *The Bill*, are supplying popular programmes to ITV, cable and satellite channels and Channel 4. Or that SelecTV, the to export its award-winning formats to international markets, on the strength of hits like Birds of a Feather, Lovejoy, Shine on Harvey Moon and Auf

Wiedersehen Pet.
"Two-thirds of our profits and half our revenues now come from overseas," Mr Dyke points out proudly. Revenues in the half-year ending June 1996 were £100m, up 66 per cent year on year. In 1997, the stakes get even higher, with the launch of the new Channel 5, in which Pearson Television has a 24 per cent stake, and for which it is a privileged supplier.

Pearson as a whole is a dif-ferent story. Uneven profit performance, bad acquisition judgement, and mounting criticism over its corporate strategy have fuelled a year of takeover speculation and the early departure of the chairman

ness press. Those close to him say he was just getting on with the job. But Pearson insiders group of operations, the City complained. Worse, an ill-fated

head down for another reason. Why annoy management at head office, who were fighting off unwanted attention, takeover talk and potshots from analysts, by appearing to take public credit for Pearson Tele-

vision's stellar performance? The silence was all the more necessary when speculation began to grow about Mr Dyke's fervent wish to form a buyout group to purchase the television subsidiary. Pearson, which is in the midst of a wide-ranging rethink about its strategy, has not ruled out the idea of spinning

Dyke's first big corporate move. holders, or even selling it. Mr Dyke, a man of enormous office, not least the departure

CD-Rom and electronic games market, through Mindscape of the US, brought nothing but misery to the management that masterminded the acquisition.

Last week, Mr Dyke re-surfaced. In an exclusive interview with The Independent, he happily discussed his wide range of responsibilities - Thames Television, SelecTV, and particularly Grundy Worldwide, the production company bought for £175m 18 months ago, as Mr

But he would not comment

on the arguably more fascinatopments at corporate head office, not least the departure for cheap, pleutiful shows will

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW

GREG DYKE

television talent, even if possessed of a rough-hewn management style, had been widely reported as having sounded out the City on an MBO. The idea was not wholly incredible, as Mr Dyke has personal money (£8m was his share of the windfall when his then company, LWT, was bought out by Granada in 1994). He also has won the respect of many in the City, who (mostly) like what he has done with Pearson Television.

The speculation was fuelled by persistent takeover rumours that swirling around the sprawling parent company, which in and the managing director.

The differing fortunes of the group and one of its leading subsidiaries is, one suspects, behind addition to Pearson Television owns Madame Tussaud's, Penguin Books, Addison-Wesleysidiaries is, one suspects, behind Mr Dyke's year-long refusal to do a major interview in the busiand 50 per cent of Lazard, the merchant bank. Too diffuse a

of Frank Barlow, managing director, and Lord Blakenham. the chairman and last remaining Cowdray family representative on the board.

He is equally tight-lipped on the challenge facing Mr Bar-low's successor, the US-born Marjorie Scardino, formerly chief executive of the Economist group. She is to begin the new year with a series of strategy meetings with senior management, including Mr Dyke, who sits on the main board.

"You're the one I am meant to like," Ms Scardino was overheard to say to Mr Dyke when they first met. The two ought to get along: both are cheerful, bright and unpretentious; neither likes the stilted, blueblooded atmosphere at 3BG, as insiders have christened headquarters at 3 Burlington Gardens. central London. But does she like him enough Pearson Television? The coming year will tell. Meanwhile, Mr Dyke pro

fesses to like what he is doing. He likes the risk and the rewards of taking Pearson into international markets, exploiting a stable of rights to popular pro-grammes. "I'd rather be a rights-owner than a broadcaster," he declares, in what might he taken as his mantra.

In the future, Mr Dyke says, broadcasters will be less important. The real value will be generated by those who own the programmes. Fragmenting conspire to give Pearson Tele-

So why aren't the traditional broadcasters doing the same thing? "I came out of ITV, and certainly I can say that it is not the kind of business that encourages you to take risks," Mr Dyke says. "We have known about the challenges of digital, of rights, of new competition in broadcasting, and the need to expand overseas and on the Continent. But not one of them

has done anything."

The other problem is that the traditional broadcasters are too stuck in their elitist ways. In the UK, you are not applauded for the popular programmes. The production process was captured by the intellectual elite." In the end, the logic of the

changes in UK television will mean broadcasters will want to expand more aggressively into programme-making and rights acquisition. "The monopoly is crumbling

and broadcasters will have to own their product." Mr Dyke has thought it all through. "As broadcasting frag-

Changing channels: Greg Dyke believes that the logic of change in UK television will mean that broadcasters will want to expand more aggressively into programme-making and rights acquisition

ones with the good names are worth their weight in gold. You couldn't afford to build *The Bill* from scratch today. Building the name will get harder.

"I guess what I am saying is that, logically, broadcasters need to look at owning a company like Pearson Television."

That's as close as he will come to conceding the company could well be bought one day, and not necessarily by him. Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB has already looked carefully, aware it needs to develop a true pres-

ments, it becomes harder and ence in British programming if harder to hold on to brands. The it is to reduce its huge programme acquisition budget. The big challenge in 1997 will be to get Channel 5 right. Mr

Dyke will become chairman of Channel 5 Broadcasting in the New Year, and has been taking a close interest in the preparations for launch.

He has had to live down his infamous contention that the controversial door-to-door reensure VCRs don't suffer interference from the signal - was nothing less than a "burglar's charter". "That was the most ex-

he says. "Just look at the secu-rity features we had to build in as a result of that quote!" He says that he is unbothered

by the rocketing costs of retuning, now estimated at £180m compared to just £55m in the Pearson-led Channel 5 bid, Part of that stems from the addition of 4 million new homes in areas that originally could not have received the signal.

The extra retuning costs are not a problem for the shareholders, because the more eve-

Not a bad set of challenges to keep a chief executive busy. A new channel, global acquisi tions, the prospect of digital television by the end of 1997. And in the midst of it all, a radical restructuring of Mr Dyke's parent company, perhaps even the demerger of the television

Mr Dyke may be counting eyeballs for the new Channel 5, but his own eyes look focused on the bigger prize: growing Pearson Television, and one day perhaps owing part of it.

Mathew Horsman

Underwriter to float on AIM

Hardy Underwriting Group, a Lloyd's of London underwriter, will join the Alternative Investment Market today in a £10.65m flotation.

While a few of the larger underwriters have stock market quotations, Hardy is unusual because it underwrites just one syndicate which is known as 382. Peter Hardy, chief executive

of Hardy Underwriting Group, said the listing could pave the way for other small underwriters. "I'm sure a lot of people are watching us. We were rather surprised we were first," he

Mr Hardy added the flotation was designed to encourage new cause they would know they under the "interavailability

could easily get in and out. The complicated transaction Group will provide about 25 per cent, or £16m, of the underwriting capacity of syndicate 382

"Syndicate 382 has been one of the more consistently profitable syndicates at Lloyd's and has an underwriting team which has worked together for many years," Mr Hardy said. He has been the active underwriter for the syndicate since its formation

The syndicate, a specialist in helicopter insurance as well as other aviation and marine underwriting, managed to main-tain positive results in the late 1980s and early 1990s when the Lloyd's average slumped into negative territory.

Hardy Underwriting Group names into the syndicate be- set up the first corporate name

These allow names to convert involves Hardy Underwriting from unlimited liability underwriting to a limited liability cor-Group merging with Hardy Underwriting Agencies, the porate vehicle, while using the business of the control of managing agent of syndicate assets which Lloyd's holds on 382. Hardy Underwriting names' behalf.

• The Institute of Directors has stepped up its attack on the possibility of Britain joining the single European currency in its New Year message to the organisation's 37,000 members. Tim Melville-Ross, IOD director-general, said UK participation in eco-nomic and monetary union would seriously damage competitiveness. He went on: "A decision to join a single currency in 1997 or at any other time in the foreseeable future would so constrain our economic freedom as to make it virtually impossible for us to compete successfully. We must continue to pursue our own independent economic policy within the single market."

 Venture capitalists seeking to invest in potential management buyouts are facing mounting financial hurdles, according to a survey by accountants KPMG. It says boom conditions in the market continued last year, with the total value of buyouts and buy ins up from £6.77bn, though the value of deals worth more than £10m each fell slightly. The number of deals recorded increased to 600 from 560 in 1995. However, Mike Stevens, bead of MBOs at KPMG, said buyouts were becoming more expensive due to strong com-petition among venture capitalists. "It is becoming increasingly difficult to find underpriced deals and there is always the danger of institutions overpaying in the race to win trophy buyouts. But with inflation and interest rates remaining subdued, the real rates of return offered by MBOs - albeit at a higher risk - are still attractive."

• Bifu, the banking union, called on MPs to amend a private Bill allowing the formal merger between Lloyds Bank and TSB to inchide a clause giving customers the power to keep branches open. Bifu claimed that without such an amendment 650 branches might close and up to 10,000 jobs lost, in addition to the 1,000 head office posts that are to go because of the merger of head office functions.

• B&Q, the DIY giant owned by Kingfisher Group, confirmed that it is to create 1,800 jobs at five new warehouse outlets around the country, half of them part-time posts. The outlets will open in Coventry, Wallasey, in Merseyside; Bury, near Manchester; and Stockton-on Tees, in Cleveland.

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What's On

PHANTOM pop & sport. C.Dion, Tina Turner 0171 823 6119





Film of the Day

Brief Encounter 4.50pm BBC2

Noel Coward probably had as much idea of what it was to be a Noel Coward probably had as much idea of what it was to be a buttoned-up and terribly, terribly middle-class Briton in the middle buttoned-up and terribly, terribly middle-class Briton in the middle of this century as you and I do - but somehow his screen version of this century as you and I do - but somehow his screen version. (directed by David Lean) of his playlet Still Life emorges as moving and true - if condescending. The film is made by the presence of Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard as the forbidden lovers. Cyril Raymond is also good as Johnson's stolid husband.

Today's television and radio

BBC 1

- 7.00 News, Weather (2431301). 7.10 Joe 90 (7945108). 7.35 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (1650585). 8.00 News, Weather
- 8.10 Children's BBC: Barney. 8.15 Peter Pan. * 8.35 The Legend of Prince Valiant. * 9.00 News; Regional News and Weather (3638092). * 9.05 Children's BBC: Incredible Games. 9.30 Record
- Breakers. * 10.00 Playdays. 10,20 William's Wish 10.30 Fine Barefoot Executive (Robert Butler 1971
- US). Disney offering about a chimp which can guess which TV shows will get good ratings (some sort of satire intended, one supposes) and starring a young Kurt Russell (23805030). 12.05 The Muppets (2149894). 12.30 Wipeout
- (97653). 1.00 News and Weather (99176856). 1.13 Local News and Weather (82675450). 1.15 Neighbours (58645276). 1.35 Neighbours: 10th Anniversary Special (7246547). 2.15 The World's Strongest Man (196491). *
 2.45 The Boy Who Could Fly (Nick Castle 1986
- US). As the title says. Kiddie fare starring Jay Underwood and Bonnie Bedelia (95666924). * 4.30 Children's BBC: The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends. 4.55 Newsround Review of the Year. *
- 5.25 The Biz. * 5.50 Neighbours (S) (620905). *
- 6.15 News and Weather (430112). * 6.30 Regional News Magazine (696769). 6.45 Winter on One. BBC self-plug (S) (485740). 6.50 This is Your Life (S) (488653). *
- . 7.30 A Monkey for All Seasons. David Attenborough meets Japan's macaque monkeys, the world's most northerly primate (R) (S) (189). *
- 8.00 EastEnders. Grant and Tiffany marriage meltdown grief (S) (5011). *
 8.30 Chef! Rochelle invites Gareth to Paris (S) (1818). *
- 9.00 News, Local News, Weather (9818). *
 9.30 Test Death Becomes Her (Robert Zerneckis 1992
- US). Present and former loves of plastic surgeon Bruce Willis Meryl Streep and Goldie Hawn bitch it out in this enjoyable enough special effects extravaganza. The SFX are courtesy of the fact that witch Isabelia Rossellini knows the secret of eternal
- youth and beauty (\$) (862585). *
 11.05 Review 906. Justin Webb reviews the year's major news 406. (\$) (531382). 12.25 Mrs Merton Show Christmas Special. Faux-senior
- citizen-curri-chat show hostess Caroline Aherne talks to Slade frontman Noddy Holder and Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell (R) (S) (2823290). * 12.55 Billion Dollar Brain (Ken Russell 1967 UK).
- Russell managed to kill off the Michael Caine/Harry Palmer espionage series (following on from The locress File and Funeral in Berlin) by making it so climax-heavy that audiences couldn't really take in what was going on (something about a special assignment to Finland). Tosh (925832). * 2.40 Weather (8509035). To 2.45am.

BBC 2

- 7.10 The Phil Silvers Show (R) (7936450). 7.35 Going Hollywood (R) (3976189).
- 8.50 Eller Command Decision (Sam Wood 1948) Clark Gable stars as an Allied officer assigned the task of bombing strategic targets deep within Germany. Walter Pidgeon and Van Johnson fasten their seatbelts (40537769).
- 10.40 Eisenhower, Soldier. First in a two-parter about the soldier-President (8559769).
- 11.45 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. More from Professor Simon Conway Morris about the story of life on Earth (S) (778030). *
- 12.45 Clash of the Titans. Cricket's 1981 Ashes series remembered (R) (S) (3854547). *
 1.25 The Essential Olympics. Recalls the Olympic Games from 1968 to 1992 (8183586).
- 2.45 The Car's the Star. The Triumph Herald (R) (S) (3878653). *
- 3.05 Great Railway Journeys. From Derry to Kerry with Michael Palin (R) (S) (2872924). 4.00 Love on a Branch Line. 1/4. Another chance to see
- this enjoyable period cornedy drama based on John Hadfield's novel, and starring Michael
 Maloney and Leslie Phillips (R) (S) (5813455). *
- 4.50 Brief Encounter (David Lean 1945 US). See Film of the Day (2816837). *
 6.15 Film The Writches (Nicolas Roeg 1990 UK). At times quite scary Roald Dahl adaptation in which a youngster's seaside holiday turns into a nightmare when he discovers the hotel he is staying in is the venue for a witches' convention. Starring Anjelica Huston, Rowan Atkinson and Mai Zetterling
- 7.45 An Audience with Charles Dickens. Simon Callow concludes his series by reading the story of *Dr Marigold* – a hugely popular Christmas tale in the
 1860s but now virtually forgotten (S) (345160). *
- 8.30 Changing Rooms (S) (2160). 9.00 The Moonstone. 2/2. Concluding the Wilkie Collins adaptation, and the eponymous diamond continues to baunt everyone who comes into contact with it (S) (3997108). *
- 10.05 Have I Got News for You. Highlights (205653). *
 10.35 East El Mariachi (Robert Rodriguez 1992 US).
 This "Spanish lingo crime meller", as Variety puts it, is certainly the cheapest movie ever picked by a Hollywood studio (it apparently cost \$7,000). Carlos Gallardo stars as a Mexican travelling musician who gets mistaken for a hit man. Simply done - and rather charming (S) (9741585).
- 11,55 Alanis Morissette in Concert (S) (758092). 12.55 The Curse of the Cat People (Robert Wise/Gunther von Fritsch 1944 US). Follow-up to the atmospheric shocker is a flawed and ambitious stab at child psychology (not, apparently, what the studio ordered), in which the husband from the first film (Kent Smith) remarries and then fears that his child is under the influence of his former wife, the panther woman, Simone Simon (5595561). 2.05 Weather (9741752). To 2.10am.

ITV/London

- 6.00 GMTV (7330769). 9.25 Santo Bugito (4268740). 9.50 Step by Step (2226837). 10.20 News (3114450). 10.25 Local News
- 10.30 IEEE Black Beauty (James Hill 1971 UK/Sp/W Ger). Anna Sawell's child-and-horse classic given a cursory run-around with Mark Lester as the dusky nag's young owner. Patrick Mower is in there
- somewhere (60177189). *
 12.20 Your Shout (2276063). 12.25 Local News (3626504). 12.30 News (9156214). 12.55 Local News (9131905). *
- 1.25 Test The First Great Train Robbery (Michael Cricition 1978 US). Sean Connery and Donald Sutherland plan to rob a British Army payroll train during the Crimean War in this attempt to recreate the Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid mixture of cornedy and excitement. (\$) (58191672). * 3.20 News (7554924). 3.25 Local News (7553295).
- 3.30 Big Foot (Danny Huston 1987 US). Two children on a camping trip are captured by a group of eight-foot ape-like creatures, who are in turn being pursued by ruthless hunters. Disney tale directed by the son of John Huston (273585).

 5.10 Home and Away Special (R) (S) (7710837). *

 5.40 News, Weather (432837). *
- 5.55 Your Shout (R) (353382).
- 6.00 London Toright (Followed by Weather) (721). *
 6.30 London Bridge (S) (301).
 7.00 Wish You Were Here? Mary Nightingale in Marrakech, Judith Chalmers on Fiji and Martin
- Roberts drives round Eire's most beautiful counties (S) (1059). 7.30 Coronation Street. Grim news for Liz McDonald
- and au revoir Curty (585). *
 8.00 Now We're Talking. Phillip Schofield and celebs from both sides of the Atlantic talk about
- communication breakdown. You owe it to yourself to stay clear (S) (5721). * 9.00 Element of Doubt. See Pick of the Day (S) (5108). 11.00 News, Weather (175295). * 11.15 Local News, Weather (447924). *
- 11.25 Jeff Green: Live! The comedian recorded live at
- 11.25 Jeff Green: Live! The comedian recorded live at Her Majesty's Theatre in London (314672).

 12.10 The Beatles Anthology. The moptops film Let it Be, jamon top of Apple's London offices, and decide to call it a day (R) (S) (4121948).

 1.10 Haddonius Football League Extra (7155412).

 1.55 Not Fade Away. Bornse Fyler's desert island discsallifity include Tima Tumer, Byyan Adams and lifety Let Someone hat in ... (S) (6541764). at Loaf. Someone has to ... (S) (5401764).
- 2.55 Exact Licence to Drive (Greg Beaman 1988 US). Teenager Cory Haim promises the girt of his dreams he will take her out in his grandfather's treasured car - despite having just failed his driving test. Ho, ho, ho (\$) (911306). 4.30 Recollections. Jazz (\$) (9962528)
- 5.05 Funny Business (R) (S) (1135615). 5.30 James Bond Jnr (R) (1116238). 5.55 News (1119325). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

- 6.20 Sesame Street (3587982) 7.15 The Babysthere Stub (2585782) 7.50 Shunt Dawys (3542878) 8.15 I Bell Ct.
- 8.15 Little Shop (R) (7455011). 8.35 Where on Earth is Carmon San Diego?
- (6478924).
- (6478924].

 9.00 The Big Breakfast (54740).

 10.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (R) (S) (55276). *

 10.30 The Crystal Maze (R) (S) (77092). *

 11.30 Back to the Future (R) (S) (5753645). *

 11.55 The Pink Parither (R) (S) (6208130). *

 12.20 God in the House. Raving Christians (5647419). *

 12.50 Base Twist (Roun Mann 1992 Can). Documentary
- about the dance craze that swept early 1960s America (4351905). *
- America (4361905). *

 2.20 BSB Silk Stockings (Rouben Marnoullan 1957 US): A stiff, to say the least, version of the Cole Porter Broadway musical based on the 1939 Greta Garbo film Althotobia. Leggy Cyd Charlese is the (KGB agent sent to stop a Russian composer in self-imposed exits in Paris, who has agreed to write repaterial for a Helly-flood film. Then she finds herself falling for the playboy producer of the movie, Fred Asiatire. Peter Lorre and Jules Munshin are in the supplier Cast that all the actors might just as well have his said film. Not good (88155585).

 4.30 Countidows (S. 1988). *

 5.00 American Footballs Size Playorts (S) (85189). *

 6.30 Hollywalds (S. 1988). *

 7.30 Just Dencing Around? The Just in this series coupling film directors with contemporary dance choreographers is a pastole deux between director Mark Kidel and Richard Alston, veteran British modernist from the Ballet Rambert and London Contemporary Dance Theatre. (a) Chi and Merce
- Contemporary Dance Theatre. Tai-Chi and Merce Cunningham are revaled as sources (S) (38127).
- 8.30 A Woman of Independent Means. 1/3. Imported mini-series with a 70-year historical span and a cast led by Sally Field, Branda Fricker and Charles Durning. Based on the the novel by Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey, it tells of a southern belle (Field) growing up with the 20th century. Part one takes us to World War One, and it all continues on New Year's Day (S) (64042924).
- Year's Day (S) (64042924).

 10.10 Homicide: Life on the Street (S) (226498).*

 11.10 Dealers. Jean-Luc Leon's comic documentary centring on the relationship between times arrists and their dealers (5.13699).

 12.35 Street The G. Men (William Keighley 1935-183-19).

 Warner Brothers street in Boothers starting Lames Cagney as a Tawyer furnish FID againt who single-handedly tales on the emitte Mon to avenge this death of an old extraolitization (47.1506).
- death of an old schoolfriend (471696). 2.10 Time Invisible Stripes (Lloyd Bacon 1940 US).
- Unemployed ex-con George Raft returns to a life of crime to prevent his younger brother making the same mistakes he did. Humphitey Bogart, William Holden and Jame Bryan are also involved in this morality tale (5629696). To 3.35am.

ITV/Regions

- ARELIA
 As London except: 12.55pm Cross Wiss
 (9131905), 5.10 Shortland Street (7710837),
 6.00 Horns and Away Special (638585) 1.55am
 War of the Worlds (6410412), 2.50am God's Call
 (5157551) 2.50am 701 57551). 3.50cm Entertainment '96 (6157551). 3.50cm Entertainment '96 (8041325). 4.45cm Film: Nicholae Nichelby (1715967). 5.40-5.55cm Sound Stee (3037).481
- CHAMBEL J MORTH ERST/MORDSHIRE

 As London except: 12.55pm Coronation Street
 (9131905), 3.30 Film: Napoleon and Samarina
 (273585). 1.10am Short Story Chema
 (7767509). 1.40am Football Extra (8102493)
 2.25am Film: Life at the Top (158580), 4.255.55am Film: The Elm-Chanted Forest (3945561)
- As Landon except: 12.55pm A Country Practice (9131905). 5.10 The Making of Star Tield Beyond First Contact (7/10837). 6.00 Home and Away Special (638585). 4.55-5.15em Sound Bites (56787783).
- HTV
 As London except: 12.55pm West: Dinosaurs
 (9131905). Wates: The House (9131905). 5.10
 Go Wild in the Country: The Matong of the Wind in
 the Willows (7710837). 5.00 Home and Assey
 Special (638585). 1.55am War of the Worlds
 (6410412). 2.50am God's Gift (6157361).
 3.50am Entertamment '96 (8041325). 4.45am
 Film: Nicholus Nickleby (1715967). 5.405.55am Sound Bites (3037948).
- REPRIAN As London except: 12.55pm A Country Practice (9.131905). 1.25 Films: The Criminus Star (58191672). 6.00 Mendian Tonight (721). 6.30 Celebrity Squares (301): 1.55am War of the Worlds (6410412). 2.50am God's Gift (8588030). 3.45am Entertainment (9044412). 4.40-5.40am Films Nicholas Nickleby (9296412).
- WESTCOUNTRY
 As London except: 12.55pm And Finally
 (9131905): 1.55em War of the Worlds
 (6410412): 2.50em God's Gift (6157561):
 3.50em Entertainment '96 (8041325): 4.45em
 Film: Nicholas Nickleby (1715967): 5.405.55em Sound Bites (3037948).
- 6.20 m Sesame Street (3580092). 7.15 The Babysitters Club (5583112). 8.15 Little Shop (7455011). 10.00 Film: Journey to the Curtre of the Earth (88193769). 12.25 pm Abe's Island (3867721). 1.00 Stot Meiltrain (95382). 1.30 Grow Business (89837). 2.30 Film: The Robe (44489). 5.00 5 Pump (9837). 5.30 Countdown (450). 6.00 News (504189). 6.05 Heno (518963). 6.35 Son a Sem (898030). 7.00 Pobol y Own (916295). 7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwer (174708). 8.00 Bachs Hi O'Ma (8721). 8.30 News (738837). 8.45 S4C Yn Cyflwyno (853160). 9.15 Jo Brand: All the Way to Worcester (827905). 10.15 Sporto (874653). 10.45 Film: The Man with Buo Brains (74033363). 12.25 sm The 6.20am Sesame Street (3580092). 7.15 The With No Brains (74033)631, 12.25am The American Football Big Match (5491677). 1.50am Women at Play (2125509). 2.15-2.45am Lumberjacks OKI (72509).

Radio

97 6-99 RMHz FMD 8.00am Kevin Greening 12.00 Dave Pearce 3.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Newsbeat Review '96 8.00 Priority Night Extravaganza 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00-8.00am

Radio 2

6 00am Nick Barraclmich 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Alex Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn's Best of the Guests 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Malcolm Laycock 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 First Ladies of Jazz 10.00 No Minor Chords 10.30 Vintage Christmas: The Emerald Affair 11.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Adrian Finighan 3.00-

Radio 3 190.2-92.44Mz FM 6.00am On Air.

- 9.00 Morning Collection. 10.00 Musical Encounters. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Leonard Bernstein. 1.00 News; Chopin by Arrangement.
- 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 3.45 Voices. 4.30 Lester Leans In.
- 5.00 Music Machine. 5.15 Interpretations on Record. 6.30 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to playwright David Hare about his musical passions.

Choice

Russell Hoban's fable Riddley Walker (7.45pm R4) takes place thousands of years in the future - when some unnamed apocalypse has left behind a peculiar wrecked carricature of our own civilisation. The Book at Bedtime (10.45pm R4) is Stendhal's Scarlet and Black, read by new heart-throb Greg Wise (left).

62.4-94.6Mbz FM; 198Mbz UM

- sarlier this month in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, by the Academy of Ancient Music, director Paul Goodwin.
- 9.05 Saki Short Stories. 9.10 The BBC Orchestras, Tan Dun: Death and Fire - Dielogue with Paul Klee. Chou Wen-Chung: Landscapes. Varese: Offrandes.
- avant-garde vocalist/composer
- 12.30 Jazz Notes. 1.00 Through the Night.
- Juliane Barse (soprano), Barn-berg Symphony Chorus and Orches-tra/Horst Stein. Bruckner. Te Deum; Symphony No 9 in D minoc Radio Symphony Orchestra.
- 10.00 Ensemble. 10.45 Mixing It. Mark Russell and
- Shelley Hirsch. 11.30 Composer of the Week:
- 3.30 Spanish Music in Goya's Time. 5.00-6.00am Sequence.
- 6.00am News. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer for the Day. 6.30 Today. 8.40 Below the Parapet. 9.00 (FM) News. 9.00 (LW) Test Match Special. Co.

Radio 4

- erage of the final day's play in the Second Test between Zimbabwe and England. 9.05 (FM) Start the Week. 10.00 (FM) Dear Diary. 10.00 (LW) Daily Service.
- 10.15 (LW) On This Day. 10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures. 10.30 (LW) Test Match Special. 11.00 (FM) My Brother Makes the Noises at the Movies.
- 11.30 (FM) The Old Curlosity Shop. By Charles Dickens. (4/6). 12.00 (FM) You and Yours. 12.25 (FM) Noel Coward: From His

1.00 The World at One. (FM only from 1.07pm) 1.07 (LW) Test Match Special. 1.40 (FM) The Archess.

- 1.55 (FM) Shipping Forecast. 2.00 Box of Delights, By John Mase-field, With Donald Sinden. 3.30 Comparing Notes with Brian Kay. 4.00 News. 4.05 Daring to be the Dane.
 - 4.45 Smort Story: Clap Hands, Here Cornes Charlie. By Beryl Bainbridge. 5.00 PM. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Going South. 6.30 News Quiz of the Year.
 - 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 The Food Programme.
 7.45 The Monday Play: Riddley
 Walker. Russell Hobar's dystopla.
 - set 3000 years in the future, with Matthew Dunster. See Choice 9.45 Inside the Hood. 10.00 The World Tonight
 - 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet and Black. (1/10).See Choice
 11.00 Sentimental Journey.
 11.30 Rent. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Through
 - the Looking Glass. By Lewis Carroll. (1/7). 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service. Radio 5
 - (693, 909kHz IARR) 8.35 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.05 Ruscoe on Five

4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Sportstrack 8.05 Sports Review of the Year 10.05 Class Warfare 11.00 Night Extra 11.35 Never Walk Alone 12.05 The Other Side of Midnight from Hong Kong 2.05 Up All Night 5.05-6.00am Off Piste Classic FM

- (1916-18) 9612 Fig 6.00am Mike Read's Festive Breakfast 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Margaret Howard 2.00 Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight Review '96 6.30 Evening Concert, Includes: Vivaldi: Violin Concerto No 1 in E, Spring, Op 8. Sereberier: Winter Concerts Rodrigo: Concierto De Estio, Summer Concerto. 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00 Mel Cooper 4.00-
- 6.00am Early Breakfast Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1258Hz MY 105-8MBz PM) 6.00am Jeremy Clark 10.00 Gra-ham Dene 1.00 Minch Johnson 4.00 Nicky Home 4.00 Minch John-
- son 7.00 (MM) Richard Porter 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Randali Lee Rose World Service
- (1984): 197 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Omnibus 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Meridian 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off the Shell 4.45 Health Matters 5.00 News-day 5.30 The Multitrack Sessions day 5.30 The Multitrack Sessions 5.45-6.00am The Learning World

Satellite

6.00am Tropic Zone (1953) (87905). 7.30 A Journey to the Centre of the Earth (80092). 8.30 The Magic Adventure (1973) (93634). 10.00 Runsway Express (1992) (42127). 12.00 My Brother's Keeper (1994) (11856). 2.00 The Battle of the Villa Fiorita (1965) (70924). 4.00 Young Indiana Jones and the Attack of the Har (1995) (4924). 6.00 Behind the Waterfall (1995) (50160). 8.00 Don Juan

De Marco (1995) (83160), 9.30 Out-

- be wasto (1995) (41860127)-21.50 A Good Man in Africa (1994)(379905). 1.25 Second Best (1994) (564306). 3.10 The Doomsday Gurl (1994) (375615). 5.00-6.00 m A Jamey to the Centrard the Earli (7683). SIT MOVES 6.00am Heart Life a Wheel (1983) (24112). 8090 Monsleur Verdoev (1947) (81673721). 10.05 (8ty Foyle
- (1940) (49434769), 12.00 Rigs and (1940) (49434769), 12.00 Eggs and Robbasons (1994) (132140, 2000 Cold Turley (1971) (72382), 4.00 Milegons East (1994) (6382), 6.00 Podic Acad-emy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) (24905), 7.30 El Features (3302), 8.00 Hercules and the Circle of Re-(1994) (92818), 9.30 The Shaws Redemption (1994) (41853837). 11.55 Body Bags (1993) (864498). 1.35 Once Were Warriors (1994) (273702). 3.15-5.30am Wilder Nepalm (1993) (16967).
- SKY MOVIES GOLD 4.00pm The Heiress (1949) (8131856), 6.00 Snow White and the Three Stooges (1961) (3528295).

- | 8,00 The Jack (1979) (3523740). | 12.00 LAPO (93412). 12.30 Real | 10.00 | Heartbreak Ridge (1986) | TV (53306). 1,00-7,00cm Hit Milks 10.00 Hearthreak Ridge (1986) (41449905). 12.15 The Pick-Up Arest (1987) (23361985), 1.40 Getor (1976) (2294528), 3.40-5.45am The Great Dictator (1940) (72520580).
- SECTION STREET 7.00am Racing News (69905). 7.30 Cricket: Zimbabwe v England – Live (1121634). 3.30 Football Special (659059). 6.00 Sports Centre (1585), 6,30 Tartan Extra (39522). 7,30 Criciet: Zimbabwe v England (379301), 10,00 Sports Centre (81653). 10.30 Tartan Extra (43837). 11.30 Spanish Football (62189). 1.30 Tartan Extra (46561). 2.30-3.00am Sports Centra (25306).
- \$871 7.00am Love Connection (4816479). 7.00am Love Contraction (4810479). 7.20 Press Your Luck (4829943). 7.40 Jeopardy (3046363). 8.10 Hotel (5491160). 9.00 Another World (1608473). 9.45 The Oprah Winfrey Thouard The Committee of the Committee o Music Concert for the Prince's Trust (96547). 3.00 Jenny Jones (35363). 4.00 The Oprah Wintrey Show (54498). 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1450). 6.00 The Simpsons (5769), 6.30 The Simpsons (9721), 7.00 The Simpsons (9479), 7.30 M*A*S*H (5905), 8.00 Year in Review: Fashion (8127), 8.30 Year in Review: Diana,

Princess of Wales (7634), 9,00 The Bible: Moses (78566), 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (32837),

- SEY 2 7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine
- (1899498), 8.00 Water Rats (1875818), 9.00 The Commish (1888382). 10.00 Under Suspicios (1898769), 11.00 Late Show with David Letterman (1206092), 12.09 Film: National Lampoon's Mode Madness (1982) (2615238), 2890-6.00am Hit Mix (8612702). *
- TIME IA 6.00am information TV 7.00 Spinish Archer 7.30 Mind and Body 8.86 Why Files 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Psy-Why Files 8.30 Violeo Box 9.00, Psychic Pet Show 9.30 The Fashion Show 10.00 Reveletions 10.30 Canary Wherf 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Revelations 12.30 Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Psychic Pet Show 2.00 Pashion Show 2.30 Mind and Body 2.00 Pashion Show 2.30 Mind and Body 2.00 Minds Rev 3.70 Electron 4.00 residut Silux 230 Mirg 28th publy 3.00 Video Box 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Spanish Archer 4.30 Why Files 5.00 Canary Wharf 5.30 Looking for Love 6.00 Fashion Show 6.30 Sport 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Reselations 8.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelations 8.00 Psychic Ret Show 8.30 Missing Persons 9.03 Why Files 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03 Sport 10.30 Stand-Up Special: Stan Boardman 11.03 Stand-Up Special: Stan Boardman 11.30 The Best of Edenquest 12.03 The The best of Edemonest 12.03 The Best of Edemonest 12.30 Kiss-TV 1.30 Home Shopping 2.00 Spind-Up Spaciel: Freddle Starr 3.00 Edimonest with Pamelar Anderson 4.00 Spinnish Archer 4.30 Pin Money 5.00 Sport 5.30-6.00am Home Shopping.

Going Out

CINEMA NEW RELEASES CINEMA NEW RELEASES
101 DALMOTANIS (U) Starring Gleen Clone
as Cruela De Val. Actan Witner Village
10.30am, 11am, 1pm, 1.50pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm,
650pm, 9.20pm, 9.50pm Barbican Consita 3pm, 1.35pm, 3.35pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm,
1.25pm, 1.35pm, 3.05pm, 3.55pm, 5.25pm,
1.35pm, 1.35pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm Barbican
1.5pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Barbican
1.85pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Barbican
1.85pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Barbican
1.245pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm
1.245pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm
1.245pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 3.40pm,
8.45pm Condent Safari 1.10pm, 3.40pm Condon Harmer Hange 10.25pm, 10.55am,
1.245pm, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm,
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Evocative distillation of the circus form.

Mersunid Puddle Deck, SC4 (0171-236

2211) SR/40 Blacktriers. Na-Sas 7.30 (extra
perf 30 Dec, 7.30, not 31 Dec, 1 Jan., 410, ents

12 Jan., £13.50.419.50, cones. & standby £10,
child £10, family of ther £50, 120 mins. THE CHERRY ORCHARD. Penelope Witton Chekhor's chemic. Albery St. Martin's Line, WCL (0171-369 1730) ◆ Leic Sq. Mans-Sat 7-30, [5][7] 3.10, code 25 Jan, £10-£25, 165 mins. A DOLL'S HOUSE Stars Janet McBer and Owte Their, Physioser Nurthurpherised Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401) • Embankment, Mon-Sat

7.30, [7] 2.30 (2 Jan, 2.30 & 7.30, no peris 3) Dec), mals 11 Jan, £10-£23-50, 180 mins.

5590) & Pior Circ. Moh.Sat 8.00, [4] 2.30 [7]. 4.00, £9.50-£25, 140 mins. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE: Cores And Dolls Richted Eyec's production. Minn-Sat 7.15, [7] 200 (estra mat 3) Dec. 200pm), unds 19 Mar. 165 mms. Lystelian: Death Of A Solut MAC ALUN Azmetroni

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Lyceum Whitington St. WC2 (6171-656 1802) → Chacing X. Mon-Set 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, £15-£32.50. 165 mins. LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR Gene Wilder in Neil'Steam's carpedy.
Queen's Shellesbury Avence, W1 (0171-494

stars. Totaght, 7.30, continuing to rep. 175 Fair Ladies At A Come Of Pours Cards Impaners tole. Thought 7.1t. 105 mins. Clini-or, £12-632-50. Cyrochom, 28-62-6. Cyrochom, £12-£16. South Bunk 5E1 (0)71-126, 2352) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY.

As You Like it Steven Planket's production. Thought, 7.15. containing in rep. 195 mins. The Pit: The White David John Webster, a theater Tonight, 7.15, in resp need 20 May: 190 miles Barbican Therape: 26-434.50. The Pic 410-£17, SIR Street, EC2(0171-634 (897))

OLD WICKED SOMES Joo Marago drawn, with Bob Hestige. Gedgad Sheftenbury Ave. W1 (0) 71 494 5965) • Per: Cire, Mon-Sat 7.30, [5] 2.30 [7] 4.00, 59-624, 120 game.

by Apr 40

Street or other than the street or other than

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